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PIETISTIC IMPIETY.

THE impiety of professing pietists is very shocking, and is becoming every day more gross and palpable. It has lately become the fashion among certain vindicators of what they miscall religion, but which is, really, the narrowest sectarianism, to proclaim the worthlessness of Biblical teaching without the help of legally-imposed formulas, creeds, confessions, and catechisms; a cry originating with the clergy; which even Mr. Disraeli is contented to repeat; and which is echoed by such lesser lights as Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay and other shallow men who do not know from month to month what their principles are. The object of the cry, of course, is to secure the privilege of teaching dogmas in the national schools to be created under Mr. Forster's Elementary Education Bill; but the plainness of the purpose does not detract from the impiety of the pretence.

The Sacred Scriptures, in the eyes of Protestants at all events, contain the full and final revelation of the mind and will of God to man; but, if men cannot sufficiently comprehend these Scriptures without the help of other men, it follows as an inevitable conclusion that the revelation is incomplete, and requires to be re-revealed; through the very being, too, whom it is supposed to teach. Man, therefore, must be able to effect what the Deity has failed to accomplish.

In short, the utterances of Divine wisdom are imperfect and unintelligible until supplemented by the inventions of men; which is precisely the rule upon which would-be authoritative interpreters of God's will have always acted. In revealing himself in the Bible God addressed all men, and must either have meant all men to understand, as well as to receive, the revelation; or He did not. If the latter, the utility of the act is not very apparent; but, if the former, we are bound to assume that the most effective course of proceeding was adopted. In which case, what becomes of this plea for a legally-accredited order of interpreters, and what are we to think of the conduct of those who, in effect, charge Divine Wisdom with bungling? If what we have here written sounds irreverent, the fault is not ours; we have merely translated into plain language the arguments of those who deny that the Bible affords a sufficient rule of life and guide to salvation without the aid of human creeds and commentaries. Of course, we confess, as we have confessed before, that there are things in the Bible "hard to be understood;" but the same is true of the great book of nature, and, more or less, of every book in existence. But that is no reason why *all* men may not try to comprehend them, and may not succeed if they try. Moreover, many, if not most, of those hard things are the result of

human miscollections, mistranscriptions, mistranslations, and misinterpretations (accidental or designed) of the sacred text; and it would be a strange way of rectifying the errors of human authority in the past to relegate students of the Bible to other like authorities in the present and future. We know, further, that some persons have almost ludicrously, though very sincerely, misunderstood the teachings of Scripture; but that only shows that men are liable to err, and is another reason for refusing to accept the unquestioned dicta of any among them. We are not at present concerned with questions as to whether or not the Bible should be read in schools, though our remarks have been provoked by arguments used in the controversy on the Elementary Schools Bill. We are dealing with a still higher matter—the right and duty of private study of the Scriptures, and of forming individual opinions thereon, together with the sufficiency thereof as a rule of life for mankind. But in reference to education, we may say that we see no reason why the Bible should not be read in schools, or why instruction may not be gathered from it without any other explanations than those—historical, philological, geographical, and so on—which are necessary in the case of all other class books. What we entirely deny is, that legally authoritative interpretations of the Bible are at all neces-



'DEMANDING TOLL.'—(PICTURE BY E. FRIDEAU.)

sary or desirable. To maintain the contrary is, as we have shown, impiously to impugn the wisdom of the Deity in vouchsafing a written revelation of his will to men at all, and is especially inconsistent in professing Protestants, who thereby repudiate the very foundation of the faith they profess—the right of private judgment.

If the doctrine we are combating be correct, its adherents not only impugn the wisdom of the Deity in giving the Bible to man, they also impugn the wisdom of the Protestant fathers in rendering that revelation into vulgar tongues, they condemn the action of our Bible societies in disseminating the Scriptures, and they throw us back upon the Popish dogma of authoritative interpretation by the Church—that is, the clergy, and them only. If we must have human authority for what we are to believe in religious matters, let us seek it at the best source—the source that has always consistently maintained the principle, and accept unquestioningly the Church of Rome, the Pope, infallibility, and all the rest of it. But do not let us, with our modern pietists, commit the profanity of declaring the Bible the sole revelation of the will of Providence with one breath, and demand human authority for what we shall believe concerning that revelation with the next. We do not depreciate Biblical exposition. Preaching, explanation, commentary, are useful in themselves, and are valuable in proportion to the capacity, learning, and general fitness for the task of those who undertake such work; but these things must be taken simply for what they are worth—as helps to understanding, not as authoritative deliverances. Creeds, formulas, and confessions may likewise have their uses, as forming a common basis of belief for those bodies of religionists who adopt them; but they must not be put forth, nor be received, as having any force, effect, or authority over nonconformists. Freedom of Biblical study and freedom of religious belief are the cardinal principles for which we battle; and both are surrendered by those who proclaim the necessity of authoritative interpretation; both are violated when, under cover of such proclamation, men attempt to impose authority on their neighbours.

Another species of profanity to which the pietists of these days—as of all ages—are especially prone is that of usurping the functions of Deity, of presuming to interpret the operations of Providence in Nature, and of denouncing "judgments" upon persons and actions that please them not. A fine specimen of this propensity of the pietists is afforded by the *English Churchman* of last week, a journal of essentially clerical tone and character. A writer in that periodical asks, speaking of the mischief caused by the long drought, "Is it going a step too far to regard the national distress in respect of these things this year as a divine judgment on the nation for having plundered the Church of God in Ireland last year?" Assuredly our reverend, but irreverent, brother does go "a step too far" here. He is guilty of very gross presumption, of daring to leap in where angels may well fear to tread; and has penned an exceedingly foolish sentence to boot.

To interpret natural phenomena as "Divine judgments" is always a perilous course, for such interpretations may be made to cut many ways, and those who venture upon doing so should be careful to see that all the circumstances and associations cohere: that the assumed crime and its chastisement are connected by time and place, and that the punishment denounced falls on the guilty parties, and in proportion to their guilt. But none of these conditions hold good in this instance. The drought has been felt more or less all over Europe, and particularly in France; it has been felt in India and in America; but it has not been felt—at least, injuriously—in Ireland, where the farmers are at this moment rejoicing in the prospect of better crops and higher prices than they have experienced for years. And yet it was at the instigation, and for the benefit, of the Irish that the so-called "plundering of God's Church" was perpetrated—a deed with which, whether worthy of "a judgment" or not, certainly the people of France, of India, and of America had nothing whatever to do. This impious pietist's "judgment," consequently, falls upon the innocent, while it profits the guilty. Moreover, the years 1853 and 1868 witnessed longer droughts than that which has, so far, characterised 1870; and yet we are not aware that any "plundering of God's Church" occurred in those years to call down the visitation. Are we not justified, then, in characterising the saying above quoted as both irreverent and foolish? Does it not occur to writers and speakers of this stamp that if accomplished facts and natural phenomena are to be deemed judgments for evil deeds, then the Episcopal Church in Ireland must be herself a conspicuous example of such judgment? She has been denuded of position and wealth; and, on the principle of this audacious usurper of the functions of Providence, is one not warranted in concluding that she suffers that denudation in consequence of her sins?—because she failed to perform her duties and to accomplish the mission she undertook—because, when weighed in the balance, she was found wanting—and because she had for centuries revelled in the possession of ill-gotten, over-prized, and misapplied pelf? Verily, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. It is time, we think, to have done with such presumptuous pietistic profanity.

"DEMANDING TOLL."

THERE are some pictorial representations which at once appeal to our curiosity and give rise to all kinds of interesting speculations and reflections, because the artist has possessed the ability to involve a crisis. Just such a condition of interest is expressed in the picture from which our illustration is taken. Apart from the almost insufferable self-confidence of that foppish young man who, in our private opinion, has no more intention of going out shooting than he has of going digging or haymaking, but has

adopted the pretence of sportsmanship that he may, with it, adopt a becoming costume—apart from this, there is a kind of suspended dramatic anxiety in the scene which is pleasantly suggestive. There is a world of meaning in that fair, contemplative face—in the coquettish doubt and womanly "reckoning-up" that underlies its demure, half-smiling, half serious, and remonstrating gaze. The self-conscious, conceited air of demand and its implication that refusal is the least probable thing that may happen under the circumstances, is the great barrier; not the extended arms and protruded face of that impudent coxcomb. "He is a handsome fellow, too; and perhaps he doesn't make quite so sure as he pretends. Of course he wouldn't *exact* the kiss for which he ought to sue more humbly; but then why should he assume—why should he dare? even though his station or his good looks, or the respectful pleading that may after all be seen in his eye, and is better than the mere unmeaning gallantry that *would* take such toll as a matter of course, and lightly say that all women liked it. How do I know that he does not think thus of women—think thus of me? Horrid! If I thought that he thought that I thought that, I'd slap his face; and yet—well, suppose he should? I'll say no! just to see, at any rate; and so no! and no! and no! again. I wonder what he'll do now." So runs the swift current of that maidenly speculation, and so in unison with it may run our own curious fancy. We must wait for the catastrophe, or for the dénouement. Wait for the companion picture, the result—the completion of the simple story which, after the fashion of a pictorial romance, will appear in a future number.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The health of the Emperor Napoleon has so much improved that he was able on Tuesday to leave the Tuileries for St. Cloud.

The exercise of the right of petition came into operation at last Saturday's sitting of the Legislative Body. Many petitions from communes were presented in favour of the free election of Mayors. The Chamber rejected a petition requesting that the supposed Roman arena in the Rue Monge should be preserved at the public cost. On Monday a discussion on the St. Gothard Railway took place. M. Mony, by whom the subject was brought forward, said the proposed railway threatened Marseilles with ruin, and he asked whether, by the Convention of Berne, foreign troops would be allowed to pass over it. The Duke de Gramont, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply, said that France was perfectly at ease respecting the political consequences likely to arise from the line, and had no right to oppose its construction. He added that foreign troops would not be allowed to pass over it. General Lebeuf, the Minister for War, also spoke on the subject; and, after answering the objection of a previous speaker as to the possibility of Prussian troops being sent rapidly into Italy by the St. Gothard, admitted that the line was to some extent calculated to disturb the military equilibrium of Europe to the prejudice of France. On the following day the Duke de Gramont was congratulated by the Emperor for his speech, and by the Swiss Minister for his cordial expressions towards Switzerland.

Prince Albert de Broglie has just published a volume of 400 pages, written by his father, the late Duke de Broglie, in 1861, and entitled "Vues sur le Gouvernement de France." It seems scarcely credible now that the manuscript of this book was so recently as nine years ago seized in the printer's office before a single proof copy had been made. The Imperial Government of the day was so frightened at a book having been written by an Orleanist of the Duke de Broglie's standing that, in defiance of all justice, decency, and law, it confiscated the sheets without knowing what was in them. More fortunate than the Orleanist Prince who wrote a history of the house of Condé, and whose whole edition was illegally kept for years in the cellars of the Rue de Jerusalem till the rats bored holes in the bundles, the Duke de Broglie's work was speedily restored to him by the Judge of Instruction, but with an understanding that he would do well not to publish it. Its appearance now is not likely to make much sensation. Events have marched so swiftly in the interval that the Duke de Broglie's Liberalism is out of date. But it is very curious to find him prophesying in 1861 that France would never resign herself to be governed by the Constitution of 1852. Unless the Emperor spontaneously made an *acte additionnel*, there must be a revolution. There is a very good chapter about the absolute necessity of liberty of the press, arguing that even license must be very largely tolerated, because without it the essential condition of liberty could not exist. "The legislator," says the Duke de Broglie, "who takes upon himself to restrict the liberty of the press within the limits of decency, justice, and reason is like the harlequin at the fair, who throws drums, trumpets, and fifes to children, and says, 'Now, my little dears, amuse yourselves, but don't make any noise.'

SPAIN.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Cortes an amendment of Senor Castelar, proposing the immediate abolition of slavery, was rejected by 78 against 48 votes. On Wednesday the Cortes adopted the Government bill for the abolition of slavery. The Abolitionists will give a banquet to Senor Castelar in acknowledgment of his speech against slavery. Admiral Topete and four Deputies have presented a petition to the Cortes in favour of the election of the Duke of Montpensier to the throne. Senor Madoz and others have also presented petitions in favour of that of Marshal Espartero.

PORTUGAL.

The official journal publishes decrees granting freedom of education, the right of petition, public meeting, and association. Other decrees have been issued suppressing pensions and half pay, and abolishing capital punishment in the colonies. The Infante Dom August has been invested with the rank of General.

BELGIUM.

The Ministers have placed their resignation in the hands of the King, but their successors have not yet been appointed.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Amos T. Ackerman, of Georgia, has been nominated Attorney-General. At present he holds the office of United States District Attorney in Georgia, and is comparatively an unknown man.

A debate on Cuban affairs in the House of Representatives, on the 16th, closed by a victory for the Administration, avoiding anything like recognition. The House, by 103 to 86, adopted a resolution that the President be authorised to remonstrate against the barbarous manner in which the war in Cuba has been conducted; and, if he deems it expedient, to solicit the co-operation of other Governments in such measures as he may think necessary to secure from both contending parties an observance of the laws of war recognised by all civilised nations. The House has refused to admit Mr. Whittmore, the member for South Carolina, who resigned in order to avoid expulsion for selling a West Point cadetship, but was subsequently re-elected. Mr. Polind introduced, on Monday, in the House a resolution requesting the President to open negotiations with Great Britain for the annexation of the British North American possessions to the United States.

SAD PIT ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday morning a boy slid down the rope to the bottom of a coal-shaft at North Whittington for the purpose of getting a cricket-ball. An alarm was raised, and his uncle went down to rescue him; but the chokedamp overpowered him, and he fell. Both were killed. Several colliers gathered round the mouth of the shaft, and two of them attempted a rescue; but considerable time elapsed before the bodies could be recovered, owing to the strength of the damp and the want of tackle. At length the bodies were raised by means of well-drags. The pits have been closed for coal-getting for the past two months.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

ONE of the most disastrous railway accidents that have ever happened on the Great Northern line occurred on Tuesday morning between Newark and Claypole, about a hundred miles from London. It seems that a large excursion-train, consisting of about thirty carriages, laden with people from Leeds, Bradford, and other neighbouring places, came to London on Monday, and arrived on its return journey at Grantham about midnight on Tuesday, all being well. At about half-past one o'clock, on approaching Newark, the excursion was in the act of passing a goods-train when one of the waggons, from an accident to its axle, slipped on the down line. The excursion-train ran into the wagon, and so disastrous was the result that it was entirely overturned and literally rolled into an adjoining ditch. The cries were awful. Information was at once sent to Newark, and assistance was speedily at hand. After a careful examination it was found that most of the excursion-train carriages were smashed to pieces, and no fewer than fourteen persons killed and scores wounded. The bodies were removed to the hospital, where two more deaths occurred. The following account is from an eyewitness of the accident:—

The train, consisting of twenty-two carriages, left King's-cross punctually at time advertised, 9.20 p.m. The run was rapid and safe until the train neared Newark. It appears that a goods-train was proceeding on its way to London when, through the breaking of an axle-tree, several waggons were thrown into what is technically termed the six-foot. Unfortunately, at the spot there is a curve, and a little beyond the scene of the accident, southwards, there is a bridge. These prevented the driver of the excursion-train from seeing the danger until too late to avoid the collision. Though the steam was turned off, the speed of the train was such that it dashed into the goods-waggons with frightful effect. The engine was overturned into the ditch at the down side of the line, while the tender was thrown into the six-foot. The goods-waggons were smashed into fragments, and, from the effects of the broken axle and subsequent concussion, scattered about the up line, upon the hedge, and into the fields beyond. The passenger-cars next the engine were by the momentum driven one over the other, and piled in masses of mere firewood high in the air. Every carriage of the train had the windows and doors broken—not one of the twenty-two escaped. The groans of the wounded and dying rang through the air; and in the dim light of morning the passengers ran to and fro—some bleeding and bruised, as if distracted by the awful transactions of the last few minutes. Scores were wandering about, some of whom had been driven violently against the carriages, others cut with flying fragments of glass or splinters of broken doors and car-sides. Under the fragments near the engine several lay dead; while one lady, whom it is understood was only slightly hurt, was fixed among the wreck of a carriage which had mounted above two others. The driver was killed, one side of his head being literally smashed in. The fireman lay against the firebox, his leg being torn off. One woman pleaded piteously with the surgeons that they would amputate her legs, which were transfixed by the broken timbers. A baby about six months old was picked up from among the wreck, its arm and face lacerated; its mother was buried beneath the carriages.

A passenger says:—

I was in one of the Bradford carriages, and therefore at some considerable distance from the front, where, of course, the collision occurred. The first shock, though it threw the carriages off the line, did not upset any of them. The collision was, however, instantly followed by a train of luggage-vans running down the length of the trip-train against it, taking off the doors, smashing the handles, breaking all the glass, and driving in the sides of the carriages. I was sitting near the door, with my face to the engine, and the door, with the glass window, was driven in upon me just as I was moving my head towards the window to see what was the matter when the luggage-vans came down. The carriages of the trip-train were all shivered on this side as by machinery. I first tried to find the handle of the door of which the top had been staved in, in order to get out. The bottom part of the door still remained, but the handle was cut clean off. I made the best of my way out from the doorway of the next compartment, the door having been completely carried away. On getting down I saw at the tail end of our train the trucks which had passed up the line on another, and some of them thrown off the low embankment into a pond. Every body was hastening to get out of the carriages, and the scene towards the front was, as far as I could discern in the dim light, something terrible—carriages piled one on another, and many of them smashed literally to shivers. The heavy engine had been toppled right over on its back, and lay inclined, with the wheels partly in the air, and some of the first carriages had, of course, gone past it. From this front part of the train, where the carriages had been so completely destroyed, piteous cries and moans were proceeding. Those who had been slightly injured in the Bradford, Halifax, and York carriages wasted no time in ascertaining the extent of their hurts, but moved at once to the front to see of what service they could be. There being no station nearer than Newark, and no force of railway servants within call, the work was of course left to those of the passengers who had escaped serious hurt. The efforts of many of the passengers to relieve their unfortunate companions were most praiseworthy, and among these was a lady, whose name I do not know, but who displayed great activity and zeal, encouraging the men and rallying them to fresh efforts. The dying and badly injured soon began to be removed into an adjoining field, the hedge of which had been broken through. A little baby, six months old, was got from among the broken wood, with its arm torn from wrist to shoulder. The child was taken to the railway station, and it was there stated that both the father and mother were dead. About four o'clock, however, the mother was got out alive, though it is not yet known whether she will survive. Many of the dead and injured were fast among the wreck for hours, and in their efforts to relieve them, by trying to lift up one portion of the broken carriages, the workers found that they were either pressing it on the other parts of the sufferers' bodies or upon some other victim of the catastrophe. Ultimately, after the lapse of some hours, a special engine brought up a heavy crane, by which the wreck was rapidly and safely removed.

The following report of the accident has been furnished by Mr. Henry Oakley, the secretary of the Great Northern Railway Company:—

An up goods-train from Doncaster passed through Newark at its appointed time without stopping, at 1.24 a.m. When about half a mile south of Newark an axle of a wagon belonging to another company, loaded with potatoes, broke off close to the inside of the wheel; this threw the engine which followed off the rails on to the down line. At the moment the engine driver of the up goods-train felt the jerk caused by the breakage of the axle a down excursion-train, which was returning from London to Yorkshire, passed him. This train was timed through Newark without stopping, and when the accident happened it was running at from twenty to twenty-five miles per hour and to its regular time. The engine of this train ran into the waggons which had been thrown across the down line of rails, was turned round, and thrown completely clear of both lines, bringing the excursion-train to an immediate stop. Six of the front carriages were thrown off the rails—three of them being piled up near the engine and almost destroyed. The passengers of these carriages suffered very severely from the shock and the subsequent breakage of the carriages. The engine-driver (Hurst, of Doncaster) and several passengers were killed on the spot; the fireman and some other passengers were so seriously injured that they died shortly afterwards.

Our latest advices from the scene of the accident state the deaths to have reached to eighteen. The incidents of this shocking catastrophe show how suddenly and unexpectedly destruction came upon the unfortunate travellers. Many were dozing or asleep, and those who were most awake, and watching the course of the journey, do not appear to have had the slightest warning before the crash came. The inquest has been opened, but the only evidence taken has had reference to the identification of the bodies of the deceased.

MR. TENNYSON and his publishers, Messrs. Strahan and Co., have commenced an action in the Edinburgh Court of Session against a Glasgow bookseller, named Forrester, for selling pirated editions of Mr. Tennyson's works printed in the United States, and published by Messrs. Fields, Osgood, and Co., Boston. The damages are laid at £500.

REDUCTIONS OF POSTAGE.—In accordance with the provisions of a new postal convention concluded with the Post Office of the North German Confederation, which will come into operation on July 1, various reduced rates of postage chargeable on letters forwarded to or through Germany, via Belgium, will be substituted for those now in force. On July 1 and thenceforward the single rate of postage on letters addressed to France or Algeria will be reduced, when prepaid, from fourpence to threepence, and the weight allowed for a single letter will be increased from a quarter of an ounce to one third of an ounce. The scale for charging heavier letters will advance by steps of one third of an ounce, one rate of threepence being paid for every additional one third of an ounce. When posted unpaid the letters will be chargeable with double postage on delivery. Letters forwarded by way of France to various countries and places which are enumerated will also be charged, after July 1 next, with postage by a scale having the third of an ounce as a unit. An additional convention has been concluded with the Post Office of the Netherlands, under the provisions of which, on and after July 1, newspapers and book packets addressed to the Netherlands may be forwarded, via Belgium, paid to the place of destination, at various rates of postage, British and foreign.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

A RATHER numerously-attended public meeting was held, on Monday evening, in the rooms of the Architectural Exhibition Society, Conduit-street, with the object of promoting the reunion of Christendom. Lord Eliot presided, and, in opening the proceedings, adverted to some comments made in the newspapers on the published resolutions which it was intended to submit to the meeting, denying that they bore the interpretation put upon them by the writers of those comments, and adding that they had been submitted to and approved by high theological authorities. The object was Christian unity and Christian reunion in the one Catholic Church. The hope was that by bringing the different branches of that Church into connection and friendly communication with each other the asperities by which they were now separated would disappear, and Christian unity be established. A resolution was submitted by Lord Kilcourse, and recommended as both Protestant and Catholic in its principle—viz., "That in view of the religious condition of mankind, of whom over two thirds are still heathen, and of the grave scandal and difficulties caused by the unhappy divisions among Christians, this meeting desires to record its conviction of the paramount importance of the reunion of East and West round the Primacy universally recognised by both alike, as well for securing the integrity as for promoting the dissemination of the Christian faith." He said that to bring about such a reunion as they desired, some one must take the first step. Obviously the Archbishop of Canterbury was not in a position to do so. Neither was the Patriarch of the Greek Church, and the only one who was of sufficient influence to do so was the Pope of Rome, of whom alone it had been said, "Thou art Peter, on this rock I will build my Church." Dr. Lisle, who seconded the motion, held that the reunion of all the Churches on the basis of Catholicism was the only hope of permanent strength in the Church of Christ. He rejoiced, and regarded it as a hopeful sign, that the resolution had been moved by a member of the Anglican Church, and that he, a Roman Catholic, was called upon to second it. On the question of Infallibility, which all admitted belonged to the Church, he was not prepared to offer an opinion whether it was a personal attribute of the Pope pending the decision of the Ecumenical Council, which would determine the question authoritatively and permanently. Mr. Collis offered an objection, remarking that, desirous as he was of Christian union, he could not help remarking that in all controversies on the subject the Roman Catholics begged the question as to the Divine authority of the Pope, or his apostolic succession to St. Peter, of which St. Paul had made no mention. The chairman deprecated any remarks hostile to the object of the meeting, and put the resolution, which was carried, but by no means unanimously, many hands being held up against it. The Rev. C. F. Lowder proposed the second resolution:—"That the only adequate remedy for the social and religious dangers of England, and the surest guarantee for the future of English Christianity, lies in her restoration to visible unity primarily with the Churches of the Western Patriarchate, and then with the Eastern Churches also." The only remedy for the social and religious dangers which threatened this country was Christian union, which was to be brought about, first by uniting with the chief of the Western, and then with the Patriarch of the Eastern, Christian Churches. Protestantism had no real religious influence in this country. It was because we were separated from the Catholic Church and from the Eastern Church, and because the Church could not speak with a certain and united voice, that we were surrounded by so many religious dissensions and social dangers. England was indebted to the Patriarch of the Western Church for its Christianity, and it should be our desire to promote the re-establishment of that union with that Church from which we were cut off at the Reformation, and from which we only differed on one point of importance—viz., that of the supremacy of the Pope. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Peacock, a Roman Catholic, and, after some remarks by Mr. Boddy, carried; as was also the following:—"That the advance of the Reunion movement during the last twelve years, and the critical circumstances of the present time, call at once for deep thankfulness and for increased energy in the prosecution of this holy work." Amongst those present were the Earl of Limerick, Lord Erskine, the Revs. Dr. F. G. Lee, H. N. Oxenham, E. L. Blenkinsopp, Dr. Littledale, Messrs. Street, Lindsay, &c.

REVISION OF THE AUTHORISED VERSION.—The revisers of the Authorised Version of the New Testament met for the first time, on Wednesday, at the Jerusalem Chamber, at twelve o'clock, and sat for upwards of five hours. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol acted as chairman. The holy communion was administered at 11.50 by the Dean of Westminster in Henry VII's Chapel, and was attended by all the members of the company, with the exception of three or four, including those unavoidably absent from London owing to illness or special engagement. Twenty were present, including the Bishop of Llandaff, the chairman of the Old Testament Company. All preliminary arrangements connected with the form and carrying on of the work were discussed and agreed to, and some progress was made in the actual work. It would be premature to express any opinion on a first meeting, but it may be said that the whole tone and character of the meeting was such as to suggest a well-grounded belief that this great and important work will be carried on with harmony, promptitude, and success. The company afterwards dined with the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol in Portland-place.

THE RECENT MASSACRE IN GREECE.—A fresh series of despatches (the sixteenth) respecting the massacres in Greece was issued from the Foreign Office on Wednesday. The report of the trial at Athens, on May 21 and 22, of seven members of the Arvanit band is concluded in this series. With regard to the chief, Takos, who escaped, nothing certain appears to be known. Writing to Lord Clarendon, on the 9th inst., Mr. Erskine mentions a report, according to which Takos had been joined by several other brigands, and was at the head of a band of nineteen, who had remained for ten days in the Turkish village of Lakresli, although that village is a military station. On the other hand, the Greek Minister, M. Valaority, was under the impression that he was concealed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Athens, and had induced M. Zalmis to double the reward offered for his apprehension. Lord Clarendon, in reply to this despatch, states that he has communicated with the Porte on the subject of the reported escape of Takos to Ottoman territory, and that the most stringent orders had been given to the Turkish frontier authorities for his capture. "But you will, if you have not already done so," adds Lord Clarendon, "press upon the Greek Government not to allow any formal question of frontier to interfere with the capture of this brigand band either on Turkish or Greek territory. The frontier convention between Turkey and Greece admits of mutual pursuit across the respective borders; and it concerns the honour of the Greek Government that its frontier authorities should not show themselves careless or lukewarm in the measures they may take for the suppression of this notorious band of brigands." Five of the brigands implicated in the massacre at Marathon were executed at five a.m. on Monday.

CHANGE IN RAILWAY COMPANIES' LIABILITY.—A most important change in the law was made on Wednesday as affecting the general travelling, and especially the excursionist public, by the Committee of the House of Commons on Group 13 of Private Bills—Mr. Hardcastle in the chair. The change is peculiarly interesting at the present time, after the occurrence of serious railway accidents to excursion-trains, and the difference which the possession of a clause similar to that passed on Wednesday would make to the Great Northern Railway Company with reference to the late deplorable accident on their line is scarcely to be estimated. The bill before the Committee was the Omnibus Bill of the South-Eastern Railway Company, which contained a clause providing that passengers travelling by "working-men's and excursion trains," run at exceptionally low fares, shall not recover for injuries received while travelling in such trains any sum exceeding £100; the amount of compensation to be fixed by arbitration, the arbitrators to be appointed by the Board of Trade. Sir E. W. Watkin, who gave evidence in support of the bill, said that 25 per cent. of the 100,000 persons who annually travelled by the cheap trains were people for whose accommodation the workmen's trains were not put on, and who ought to travel by the ordinary trains. The trains had to be run at exceptional times; and if an accident occurred it might involve the company in actions for damages to the extent of £20,000 to compensate parties who had no right to travel by these trains. Sir Edward intimated that the workmen's trains would be taken off if the clause did not pass. The Great Eastern, London, Chatham, and Dover; Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, and North London lines possessed this limitation as to £100 compensation; but it did not apply to excursion-trains, and hence they were compelled to run "workmen's trains." The Committee passed the preamble of the bill and approved the clauses, including the one limiting compensation to £100 for accidents on workmen's or excursion trains.

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

PROMINENT among the bluebooks of this Session will stand the report of the Royal Commissioners who were appointed in January, 1868, to inquire into elementary or primary education in Ireland, and the measures which can be adopted for its more general extension among the people. Eight large folio volumes will communicate to Parliament and the public the results of this inquiry. The first volume, of 600 pages, contains the report of the Commissioners; the second volume, the reports of the Assistant Commissioners; the third, fourth, and fifth volumes are required for the evidence taken and an analysis of the answers to upwards of 27,000 questions. The sixth volume will present the educational census of elementary schools, taken for the Commission; the seventh volume will give the returns obtained from the National Board; and the eighth will be devoted to returns received from other educational bodies and some miscellaneous information obtained. The report of the Commissioners is divided into ten parts. The first contains an historical sketch of the system of national education in Ireland; the second describes the provision at present existing for the primary education of the poor. The Commissioners state that the educational census of primary schools taken by the police on June 25, 1868, shows that not more than 45 per cent. of the children of school age (five to fifteen) were at primary schools on that day. The third part of the report deals with the quality of the instruction and the machinery of administration; the fourth part, with questions connected with teachers; the fifth, with model schools and agricultural schools; the sixth, with workhouse, gaol, and other special classes of elementary schools; the seventh, with the subject of facilities for intermediate education; the eighth, with the constitution of the Board of National Education; and the ninth contains a review of what has been already effected for the promotion of primary education in Ireland, and of what may be expected to be the result of the several recommendations which, in the course of the report, the Commissioners have made. In the concluding part of the report they give a summary of their general conclusions and recommendations, 129 in number. The Commissioners are of opinion that it would be inexpedient to pass any law compelling attendance at school in rural districts; that in towns provision should be made for the education, at the expense of the parents if possible, or, if not, at the expense of the community, of all children who are of school age and not actually at work. The Commissioners hope that the payment (partly) by results, in the modified form in which they advise its adoption, will make the teachers more keenly anxious for the progress of the children, and that the wholesome rivalry of schools in the same district will produce, both in managers and in teachers, active exertion to secure more regular and more beneficial attendance. An attendance for less than four hours of secular instruction is not to count. The Commissioners are of opinion that all the children should either pay school fees or be paid for out of a public rate; that the grant from the Commissioners of National Education should bear a fixed proportion to the local contribution; that the local rate should not exceed threepence in the pound; that the amount raised by rate and local subscriptions, together with school fees, should reach one fourth of the total cost of the school; and that every school aided by the State should be managed by a committee regularly appointed. The children in schools aided by the National Board are to be examined by an inspector in subjects of secular instruction, and the schools must be such as all children can frequent without interference with their religious belief. No books are to be used to which the board objects. When there is only one school religious instruction is to be confined to fixed hours, a conscience clause securing then the exclusion of children of a different faith. Recommendation No. 44 provides that where they have been in operation for three years two or more schools, one under Protestant and one under Roman Catholic management, having an average attendance of not less than twenty-five children, the National Board may on application adopt any such school (to be recognised as a separate school for a particular religious denomination), and award aid, without requiring any other regulation as to religion than that in such denominational schools Protestants shall not be present when religious instruction is given by a Roman Catholic, or vice versa, and that no child shall be allowed to be present at any religious observances to which its parents or guardians may object. The distinction between convent schools and ordinary schools is to cease. There are recommendations as to the training and examination of teachers. It is recommended that the masters of primary schools be freely allowed to teach extra subjects out of school hours, the lessons to be paid for by the pupils. A revision of endowed schools is recommended, and it is suggested that out of the endowments provision should be made for the free admission into superior schools of a certain number of the most promising pupils from primary schools, to be periodically selected, without any distinction of locality or creed, by independent examiners, after open competition in the subjects of elementary instruction. The report is signed by the Earl of Powis, the Earl of Dunraven, the Bishop of Meath, Lord Clonbrock, Mr. Justice Morris, Mr. Brooke (Master in Chancery), Mr. B. M. Cowie (Inspector of Schools), Mr. J. A. Deane, Mr. Scott Nasmyth Stokes (Inspector of Schools), Professor W. K. Sullivan, and Mr. Lawrence Waldron. Three Commissioners—Sir R. Kane, Dr. D. Wilson, and Mr. James Gibson— withhold their signatures, and give at some length their reasons for so doing. They all object to the establishment of denominational education. Mr. Justice Morris objects to a compulsory education law in Ireland, with higher local taxation than England; so also does Mr. Waldron. Mr. Brooke dissents from the recommendation relating to the application of part of the school endowments; and the Bishop of Meath and Lord Clonbrock dissent from that recommendation so far as it would throw open to all religious denominations endowments specially designed for the benefit of members of the Established Church or for other Protestant purposes.

SLAVE TRADE.—The annual bluebook on the state of the slave trade was published on Monday. From all parts nearly the reports are the same, that the trade is dying out. It only lingers in diminishing strength in parts of Zanzibar and a few ports on the east coast. Havannah reports from our Consuls assure us that the Spanish Government is now sincere in its desire and most energetic in its action to put a stop to the trade. So completely has the trade been stopped, and so little have the courts of adjudication had to do, that it is now intended to abolish entirely all the courts of mixed commission at most of the chief stations.

A CROWN FOR VICTOR EMMANUEL.—A correspondent of *La Liberté* says that recently a subscription was opened in Italy for the purpose of presenting a Royal crown to Victor Emmanuel, and a total of 45,000*fr.* was collected in a short space of time. The King, having heard what was on foot, invited those who had been active in the matter to the palace. He thanked them for their generous design, and begged them to convey his acknowledgments to those who had subscribed to the fund; but to inform them that, such as he was, his crown was good enough for him, and that he begged them to apply the fund so collected to the foundation in Florence of an asylum for the indigent blind. Such a mode of receiving a present of an asylum for the indigent blind, save that it is worthy of being imitated.

HOSPITAL BATHS.—We understand that a project is on foot to erect a special set of baths in connection with the skin department of University College Hospital, in order to secure for the patients the advantages of those places of treating cutaneous maladies by external applications of moisture, heat, medicinal substances of various kinds, and the like, which are so much in repute on the Continent, as the surest means of curing some of the more obstinate diseases, but which, it must be confessed with regret, are practically unknown and unused in England, or at any rate employed only under exceptional circumstances, at the same time that they are inaccessible to the poor. In commenting recently upon the existing deficiencies in the appliances of our large London hospitals, we pointedly referred to the absence of proper baths, and urged the hospital authorities to provide them. It is impossible to regard the equipment of any of the special skin departments of our large hospitals as at all complete or satisfactory, either as regards the curing of disease or the training of medical practitioners, if baths are wanting. We trust, therefore, that the present project will not fall through, but be brought to a speedy and successful issue.—*Lancet*.

HONORARY DEGREES AT OXFORD.

THE following noblemen and gentlemen have this week received honorary degrees at Oxford, on the occasion of the Commemoration:—

TUESDAY.

His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.T.
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.
Le Comte Ferdinand de Hompesch, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Bavaria.
The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, M.A., All Souls' College.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, D.D.
The Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons.
The Right Hon. Sir William Bovill, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.
The Right Hon. Lieutenant-General Jonathan Peel.
The Right Hon. George Ward Hunt, M.P.
The Right Hon. John Thomas Ball, LL.D., Q.C., M.P.
The Rev. Alfred Barry, D.D., Principal of King's College, London.
The Rev. Nathaniel Woodard, B.A., Canon of Manchester.
Sir Edwin Landseer, Knight, R.A.
Sir William George Armstrong, Knight, C.B.
Sir Francis Grant, Knight, President of the Royal Academy.
Sir James Alderson, Knight, M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians.
Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy, Knight, Deputy Keeper of the Records.
Herman Merivale, Esq., M.A., Balliol College, one of her Majesty's Under Secretaries of State for India.
Matthew Arnold, Esq., M.A., Oriel College.
Henry Reeve, Esq., Registrar of the Privy Council.
John P. Gassiot, Esq., Vice-President of the Royal Society.
Charles W. Siemens, Esq., F.R.S.
James Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S.

WEDNESDAY.

His Grace the Duke of Richmond, K.G., Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen.
Lieutenant-General von Bulow, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Denmark.
The Right Hon. Earl Beauchamp, M.A., All Souls' College.
The Right Hon. Earl De Grey, K.G., President of the Council.
The Right Hon. Earl Cowley, K.G., G.C.B.
The Right Hon. Earl of Rosse.
The Right Hon. Baron Lyttelton, K.C.M.G.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lincoln.
The Right Hon. Sir Alexander J. E. Cockburn, Bart., Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.
The Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, K.C.B.
Lieutenant-General Sir William K. Mansfield, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.
Rear-Admiral Sir J. C. Dalrymple Hay, Bart., C.B.
Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, Bart.
The Rev. Henry Moseley, M.A., F.R.S., Canon of Bristol, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen.
The Rev. Henry Parry Liddon, M.A., Christ Church, Dean Ireland's Professor of the Exegesis of Holy Scripture, Canon of St. Paul's.
Professor Hermann Helmholtz.
William Boxall, Esq., R.A., Director of the National Gallery of Pictures.
George Edward Paget, M.D., President of the General Medical Council.
Edward Frankland, Esq., F.R.S.
Henry Bence Jones, M.D., F.R.S.
William Smith, Esq., LL.D.
George Campbell, Esq.
Warren de la Rue, Esq., Vice-President of the Royal Society.
Edward A. Freeman, Esq., M.A., of Trinity College.
William Huggins, Esq., F.R.S., Secretary to the Royal Astronomical Society.
Sterndale Bennett, Esq.
N.B. The name of Charles Darwin, Esq., F.R.S., would have been included in the foregoing list, but he writes that his health is such that he "could not withstand the fatigue and excitement of receiving an honorary degree."

ART-INSTRUCTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The drawings and models which have been selected from the works executed by the students of the various schools of art in the United Kingdom, for the medals and prizes offered by the Science and Art Department for this year's "National competition," are now being exhibited in the South Kensington Museum. In consequence of the great want of space in the museum they have been arranged in the Raphael Cartoon Gallery. The total number of works submitted for examination, from which this selection has been made, exceeds 87,000, sent up from 107 schools of art and 269 art night classes.

THE CITY ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.—The annual festival of the City Orthopedic Hospital, Hatton-garden, will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Thursday, June 30—Lord Elcho presiding on the occasion. The hospital, which was established in 1851 for the cure of bodily deformities, has effected a large amount of good, especially among the children of the poor of the eastern part of London. No letter of recommendation is required. 18,353 poor patients, of all creeds, nations, and localities, have received its benefits since it was first opened. During last year the number of patients relieved was 1945, many of them cured of apparently hopeless deformities. There are now a number of vacant beds, which remain empty for want of funds; while the out-patients, many of whom require treatment within the walls, are very numerous.

THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—A correspondent asks us one or two questions in reference to the statute of limitations. This law is of general importance to creditors. A debtor's residence out of English jurisdiction during the whole or any portion of the period of six years is taken as portion of the time beyond which a debt is not recoverable. Oddly enough, the converse is not the case, so that a creditor who absents himself is not barred by the statute from proceeding on his return. A payment on account of the debt, or a written acknowledgment of it, revives the debt for six years thereafter, in either case. In the particular case mentioned by our correspondent there appears to have been some conflict of evidence, and we are not informed of the reasons influencing the decision of the Judge of the County Court.

HARVEST PROSPECTS.—Mr. J. J. Mechi, writing on harvest prospects, anticipates that wheat will be our best crop, somewhat deficient in yield possibly, but fine in quality. In fact, Mr. Mechi remarks, a failure of the early grass crop is generally coincident with a good wheat harvest. Barley is likely to be good on cool soils, but very deficient on hot and thin soils. Potatoes are generally very healthy, and promise to be a good crop. Oats on well-farmed clays look promising. Beans are very short in the straw, but well-bloomed. Peas are a poor crop on light soils. It is Mr. Mechi's opinion that it would be a great advantage, considering that the English climate and soil are growing drier and warmer, to cultivate more wheat and plough up the poor pasture lands. At present, with an area of 45,000,000 available acres, we grow only 3,700,000 acres of wheat.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION.—The annual meeting of the English Church Union was held, on Tuesday, at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of the Hon. C. L. Wood. The chairman said that the first object of the society was to maintain the identity of the Church since the Reformation with the Church before the Reformation; and another position which they took up, and were prepared to maintain, was that they should assist in defending the creeds of the Church against that comprehensive Christianity of which they heard so much in the present day. A resolution was adopted objecting to a time-table affecting the whole course of school instruction being made a condition of grants, and protesting against any attempt to interfere with distinct religious teaching, through catechisms or formularies, to those who desire to receive it. Resolutions were also adopted in opposition to an alteration of the burial laws and marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and in opposition to the abandonment of the Athanasian Creed. Mr. J. G. Hubbard, the Dean of York, Canon Gregory, the Hon. R. Liddell, Lord Glasgow, and Lord Eliot were among the speakers.

FIRE IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU.

THE hot weather, which affords at present a topic of conversation so general that the oppressive sultriness of mid-day is occasionally intensified by its absorbing other subjects of interest, has given rise to grave fears in the agricultural districts of France; and it has been anticipated that the scorching of the grass lands, and even the roasting of the grain, might be followed by actual cases of conflagration,



GREAT FIRE IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU

such as followed the intense heat and drought of 1868, when the long herbage on the sides of railway cuttings was seen to blaze out without any known application of flame. These cases, however, were doubtful; and though there may be some people who will have been ready to attribute the recent burning of a portion of the wood of Fontainebleau to combustion through the great heat, it is pretty generally believed that it actually occurred, as so many other fires do, from the careless flinging away of a lighted fusée or the remnant of unextinguished tobacco, by a thoughtless smoker.

When, on June 6, the intelligence was spread that the forest was on fire, it was feared that a great portion of it would be destroyed; but the disaster was not so serious as had been at first believed. The fire was real enough, but it had not extended its ravages to the most picturesque portions of the wood celebrated for their grand trees, such as the Valley of the Solle or the Lower Bréau, where the loss would have been almost irreparable. From some unknown cause, the conflagration had broken out in the district of the Apremont, in one among several gorges, known as the Fox's Gorge, where there was formerly no cultivation. The administration of the forest had recently established pine plantations there, and for some years several varieties of these trees had grown in the place—the only vegetation which would thrive in soil composed of the detrition of rocks, great boulders of which, of strange and picturesque forms, stand up gaunt and menacing on the hills that stand above the pretty village of Barbizon.

On the first alarm of the fire, which lighted up the surrounding country, the inhabitants, guided by the glare, rushed out; and the colony of painters at Barbizon were the first to attempt to extinguish the flames. They pulled down branches of the trees, and with them endeavoured to beat out the fire where it had not already become too violent, stifling the flames which began to communicate to the surrounding herbage. Notwithstanding these efforts, however, the fire made its way between the rocks, and gained little by little towards the summit of the two high hills which form the Fox's Gorge. There it burnt fiercely, and the tongues of flame licked the life out of the pines, turning their leaves yellow and shrivelling them, even if they escaped entire destruction. It is probable that the artistic colony at Barbizon will produce several paintings of the scene for the Fine-Art Exhibition, and our illustration will suggest to our readers that there were ample materials for a striking picture.

AN ELECTORAL BUREAU.

SURELY M. Denuelin must have had a rather maliciously funny intention when he sent this picture to the Fine-Art Exhibition.



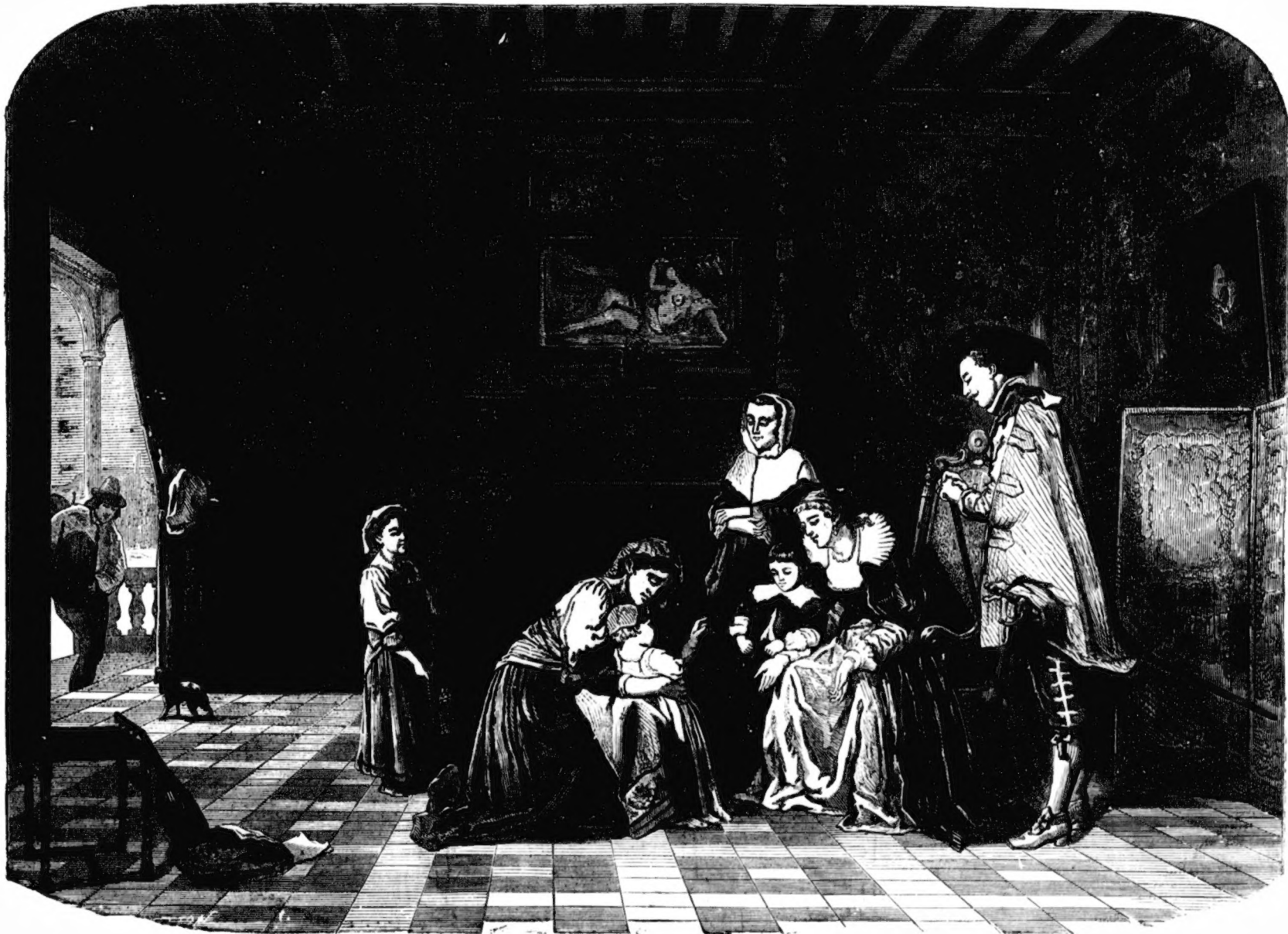
"AN ELECTORAL BUREAU."—(PICTURE BY J. DENUELIN, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

biton of Paris; and but for the fact that its humour is double-edged and cuts two ways, he might have hesitated to present the country with such a memento of the great plebiscite of 1870. That this is a true and almost unexaggerated picture of a bureau in one of the simple mairies where few political differences disturb the calm surface of bucolic experience or of Conservative trading, many Parisians will readily believe. Indeed, there is an air of verity about the appearance of the local magnate which carries some conviction with it. Then, again, the electoral urn, though it is so obviously the mayoral soup-tureen belonging to the best dinner service, has a political dignity imparted to it by being devoted to receiving the suffrages of the loyal supporters of the Government. Should any disaffected member of the community sneer at it and whisper that no obstacle exists to official tampering, surely he may be referred to the conscience of a Mayor and be reminded that, though he and some like him may be suspected by a sagacious Government, the armed force with which he is always ready to accuse the Empire of supporting its elections is here represented only by a placable forest-ranger or special gendarme of the district, whose faith in law and order leads him to repose calmly under the influence of "restorations" necessary to enable him to support the arduous duties of maintaining both.

It need hardly be added that M. Denuelin's picture is one of the most popular in the exhibition.

THE RETURN OF THE NURSE.

M. PLASSAN, an engraving of whose charming contribution to the Paris Fine-Art Exhibition we publish this week, has long held a very distinguished place as a painter of *genre* pictures. Belonging to the same school as Meissonier, and with all the delicate colour and exquisite finish by which that school is characterised, he excels in those homelike scenes that are sure to find wide appreciation in any gallery open to the public. Though he generally chooses the costumes and surroundings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for his scenes, there is so much of true human sentiment in the story to which he calls attention, that they belong to no particular age. This picture of the return of the nurse might in itself point a moral as well as it adorns a tale. The shrinking of the little creature who is brought home to the mother whom she has forgotten; the refuge which she is so ready to find in the arms of the woman who has reared her from the first week of infancy; the anxious, wistful look in the mother's face; the strangeness to be overcome; the confidence to be restored or to be gained,—all express a deprecation of that system of "putting out to nurse" which has long been the bane of domestic life in France.



"THE RETURN OF THE NURSE."—(PICTURE BY M. PLASSAN, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 382.

MR. FORSTER WRESTLING WITH DIFFICULTIES.

THURSDAY, June 17, was all-important in the annals of the Session: so important that probably the Muse of History, or rather the historian whom her ladyship may inspire, may have to stop and look at, and record, what was done in the House of Commons that day. "Elementary Education Bill Committee" stood as the first order of the day on the paper which the members received that morning; and there were attached to this paper twenty-eight folio pages, containing over three hundred separate notices of amendment to the bill. Our excellent Vice-President of the Council, during the recess, devoted much time and thought to the framing of this measure. Probably there was scarcely a day in which he did not work at it, either at his desk, mentally and manually, or mentally only as he rode or walked, or as he lounged in his library or lay upon his bed; and we have no doubt that he worked at it too in his dreams. He had been called as if by a voice from Heaven to undertake the grand task of educating the people of England. For many years, long before he got into Parliament, and when he had no thought of ever being a Minister of the Crown, he was anxious, as we know, to get this work done; and it is but justice to him to say that on that small portion of the country over which he possessed influence he had, to the extent of his power, got the people more or less instructed. His portion of the national seed field he had cultivated to the full extent of his means. And now, lo! he is "called" himself to do the great work which all his life he has desired to see done. At last, his bill being completed and approved by the Cabinet, the time came when, to speak naively, he was to launch it. Would it "walk the water like a thing of life," and get successfully, after much struggling with envious winds and still more dangerous foes, into port? It was an anxious time with our Vice-President. He, however, showed no trepidation, but acquitted himself bravely and well. The speech which he delivered on the occasion all men praised, and it was worthy of praise. It was one of the clearest, most lucid, speeches that we ever heard; and it was eloquent. The eloquence, though, was not of the smooth, polished, elegant sort; but vigorous and somewhat rugged, showing us that the speaker was more anxious to convey to the minds of his hearers what he had to say than he was about the language in which he conveyed it. And it may be said that he launched his bill successfully; but not without mutterings, if no more, of disapprobation, which might and probably would, as we foresaw, grow into a storm; and this happened, as we know, between the first and second readings. There was much agitation in the country, and on a hundred platforms the bill was sharply criticised, and on not a few denounced. But, all this notwithstanding, the second reading, on March 19, after two nights' debate, was carried without a division. Mr. Dixon had given notice of an amendment, and, indeed, moved it, to the effect that no religious instruction shall be given in schools supported by the public funds or rates. But the Vice-President promised that the religious teaching should be given out of school hours, &c., and, by throwing this sop to Cerberus, his barking was stopped for a time, and the bill got, as we have said, over the second reading. But the storm was not quelled; it raged as furiously as ever; and as soon as the second reading had been passed, notices of amendments began to pour in, and (to cut short this preliminary history) on Thursday week, when the bill was down for Committee, there were, as we have said, upon the paper over 300 notices of amendments. "Alas! for Mr. Forster," we exclaimed as we opened our paper and saw this bristling array; "three hundred amendments! why, if he could get rid of twenty a night, he would require fifteen nights, and we have arrived at the 17th of June!"

GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.

On Thursday, then, the bill was to be got into Committee, when the real tug of war would begin. At an early hour the House was full, and at that time there was no suspicion that anything strange was about to happen. There were one or two preliminary motions on going into Committee to be settled: notably, one of Mr. Vernon Harcourt; and everybody expected that these would be moved in due form, be debated, put from the chair, and be defeated, either with or without a division, in the regular way. We were lounging outside the House when the time came for the motion to be made that Mr. Speaker do leave the chair, and had no thought of going inside for a time; but an official whispered in our ear, "You should go into the House, something is going to happen;" and, of course, we entered, and found to our surprise, not Mr. Forster nor Mr. Vernon Harcourt, but Mr. Gladstone on his legs speaking, with every eye fixed upon him, and every ear open to catch every word that he said. "What is he doing?" we said to a friend near. "Oh! he is going to propose some changes in the bill." And we soon discovered that it was so; but it was a long time before we got to learn what the changes were to be. The Prime Minister was in one of his circumlocutory moods, which we know so well. No man can speak more tersely, more directly to the point, than he can when he is so minded, or, rather, when he is inspired. He speaks most forcibly, with least circumlocution and ambiguity, when he is somewhat angry. But he can be, and often is, terribly rambling and wasteful, and he was so on this occasion; and yet there was no cause for all this circumlocution; what he had to tell the House was very simple, and needed little preliminary introduction or explanation. He had to propose two or three changes in the bill. These might have been announced and explained in half an hour, but he must have spoken nearly an hour and a half. The distance that he had to travel was really very short, and the path very straight and plain. Why, then, did he wander about, all to no purpose, in such a devious, rambling, excursive manner, like a man who has lost his way in a wood, or rather, perhaps, like one who, having plenty of time on his hands, determines, instead of taking the straight road, to plunge into a labyrinth of side paths, merely to prove his skill in chieftaining them? The House got very weary of all this circumlocution; and, what was worse still, many of the members lost the clue, and when Mr. Gladstone sat down were by no means sure that they clearly understood the meaning of the amendments which he had proposed.

MR. DISRAELI HIMSELF AGAIN.

Mr. Disraeli is, happily, himself again. Our readers will remember that quite early in the Session he was attacked by bronchitis. The disease was common then; many members had it; though generally it was not of a severe type. But Mr. Disraeli's attack was sharp and prolonged. For a week or two he had to lay up. Then he began to appear in the House fitfully, but looking miserably unwell. A relapse came, and again we missed him, and rumours reached the House that he was worse than ever, and that bronchitis was complicated with other and more serious diseases; and ominous whisperings spread about. Indeed, we began to fear that his work was done, and that we should never see him again. No doubt Rumour spoke falsely, as her habit is; or, at all events, exaggerated the danger, as in such cases she rarely fails to do. Suddenly, however, he again made his appearance, and at a glance anyone might see that, if not quite well, he was rapidly advancing to health. Mr. Disraeli is not a popular man. His own party do not enthusiastically admire him, and his opponents, whom he has so often thwarted, and foiled, and castigated with his sharp satire, cannot be expected to have any strong affection for him. But, nevertheless, we are quite sure that all were glad to see him in his place again, and to hear him speak as he did on Thursday night week, with all his old liveliness and freshness, and quiet satire and irony. Some of his hits were palpable, and excited roars of laughter on both sides. Here is one of them:—"Although," he said, "no creed nor catechism of any denomination is to be introduced, the schoolmaster is to have the power of teaching, enforcing, and explaining the Holy Scriptures when he reads. Now, he cannot do that without drawing inferences and conclusions; and what will those

inferences and conclusions be but dogmas?" A hit, a hit, a palpable hit! Again:—"You will not intrust the priest or presbyter with the privilege of expounding the Holy Scriptures to the scholars; but you are inventing and establishing a new sacerdotal class." Here, too, the right honourable gentleman certainly "hit the white." What, then, shall we have the Bible without note or comment? Not so; for, as he told us with a naïveté that set the House in a roar, "there are but few of us who read chapters in either the Old or New Testament who do not require to have considerable comment upon them." And now for a specimen of his irony. "The right honourable gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) tells us that the scheme is very simple; but the right honourable gentleman took an hour and a half to explain it, and I believe that he did not waste a word upon the subject; and yet I candidly confess that I do not comprehend it." O rare Ben! Thou dost not add much to our knowledge; thy reasoning is never very cogent; we cannot call thee a great statesman; but we should be sorry to lose thee.

MCCULLAGH TORRENS ON THE CONDITION OF ENGLAND.

The bill got into Committee that night, but only pro forma, to insert Gladstone's amendments, that the bill might be reported as amended. Nor did it get into Committee for business on Monday night. There was much talk on Monday night; but, as it was not remarkable talk, we will not dwell upon it, but go back to Friday night week, on which much occurred worthy of notice; more notice, indeed, than we shall be able to give to it. The House met at two o'clock p.m., suspended at seven, resumed at nine, and rose at a quarter to four on Saturday morning. What think you of that, readers? The morning sitting furnishes no matter for us. But at the evening sitting there was some good debating on unemployed labour and how to get it employed. It was Mr. McCullagh Torrens who undertook the task of proving that there is a vast amount of unemployed labour in the country, and of showing how it may be employed. It is not wanted here; send it, then, where it is wanted. The idea is by no means original. Twenty years ago Carlyle gave us a picture in his "New Downing-street" which he hoped to see realised. "Our war-soldiers," he says, "industrial first of all; doing nobler than Roman works when fighting is not wanted of them. Seventy-Fours not hanging idly by their anchors in the Tagus or off Sapienza (one of the saddest sights under the sun), but busy, every Seventy-Four of them, carrying our streams of British industrialists to the unmeasurable Britain that lies beyond the sea in every zone of the world." This picture has never been realised. Mr. McCullagh Torrens's task on Friday week was to urge the British Parliament to realise it, or something like it. Mr. McCullagh Torrens is not an eloquent speaker. He is slow, monotonous, and speaks in a low voice, which he only now and then raises above the level pitch. But still he has the power of bringing out, without any seeming effort, and with no bold, vigorous touches, gradually to your mind's eye that which he wishes to present. This Mr. McCullagh Torrens did on that Friday night. At first we thought him dull and uninteresting; but as we listened we soon became interested; and as the picture of national distress, as he painted it, gradually came out with terrible distinctness, we became absorbed and moved to pity for the distress, and angry that so little had been done to alleviate it and prevent its recurrence. "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just," says Solomon; "but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him." The picture which Mr. McCullagh Torrens painted was dark and appalling; and Lord George Hamilton, the member for Middlesex, gave it a still more gloomy hue.

MR. GOSCHEN ON THE SAME.

But whilst we were looking at this picture, hope began to dawn upon our mind. It struck us that the picture might be over-coloured. Men who have some grievance to get redressed, and some pet plan for redressing it, are apt to magnify the grievance, just as a quack doctor exaggerates the disease of his patient to induce him to take his (the doctor's) pills. Moreover, whilst Mr. McCullagh was casting his dark shadow upon the canvas, we could see that Mr. Goschen, the President of the Poor-Law Board, as he sat at the table, with official box and papers before him, was not at all scared by the hon. member for Finsbury's gloomy statements. On the contrary, it was easy to see that the President did not believe them, and that he thought he had in that box of his ample means to confute them all. Indeed, he could not help, now and then, showing his disapproval. At times, when some specially dark colour was laid on, Mr. President smiled; whilst at other times, when Mr. McCullagh Torrens quoted some appalling figures, Mr. Goschen would seize a paper, glance at it, and significantly shake his head. We could also discern a hopeful sign in his impatience to rise. In short, before Mr. Goschen rose the effect of Mr. McCullagh Torrens's speech had begun to fade away. And now a few words about Mr. Goschen's speech. The right hon. gentleman won his spurs as a debater long ago, in a discussion on a University Test Bill. He, as all will remember, gained much fame by a speech which he delivered in that debate. He has scarcely since kept his reputation up to the level to which it then attained. But on this occasion, if he had lost any ground, he recovered it; for his laurels had become somewhat faded, they were, when he sat down, brighter and more luxuriant than ever. In truth, it was allowed on all hands that this speech was one of the best official replies that ever came from that bench. As one said, it was hardly a fight, but a triumphal march. And with what eloquence and force the speech was delivered! "Did you hear Goschen's speech?" said a Conservative to us; "it was the finest speech I have heard this Session. I knew he was a clever fellow, but I didn't know that he could do anything like that." The debate was adjourned, and probably will stand adjourned for ever. Indeed, after Goschen's speech there was really nothing to be said.

ELEVEN DIVISIONS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

Eleven divisions in succession was what the readers of the Times saw in the paper last Saturday morning; and about these divisions, which without explanation must be unintelligible to most people, we shall be expected to say something. First, then, readers, know that these divisions all came off after one o'clock in the morning. The first occurred at half-past one; the last about half-past three. But they did not occur in rapid succession, as by the Times report they seem to have done. In the intervals between the divisions there was a good deal of wrangling and inane gabble. The cause of this foolish struggle was this: Mr. Hibbert has a bill to remove the disabilities of clergymen wishing to escape from their office. They may now cease to officiate, of course; but they cannot be called to the Bar, enter Parliament, nor, indeed, legally carry on any trade. Mr. Hibbert's bill is intended to liberate them from these bonds. Surely a very kind and proper thing to do. But no, say the Conservatives, it is not a proper thing, but a bad thing, and, if we can prevent it, it shall not be done. And so, as soon as Mr. Hibbert had moved that the House should go into Committee, up rose Mr. Assheton Cross (the man who bent Mr. Gladstone in S. W. Lancashire, if our readers care to know) to move that the debate be now adjourned. A very dark and obstinate Tory is Mr. Assheton Cross; and, though Mr. Hibbert pleaded hard to be allowed to go on, the hon. member for S. W. Lancashire stubbornly refused, and a division took place, when, for the adjournment there were 47 against 99—majority 52. But, of course, this did not settle the question. This was only the beginning of the struggle. Next, motion was made that the House should adjourn; and so the war, or rather trial of strength, went on. At first we felt pretty sure that the minority would ultimately tire out the majority. But it was not so, and we will tell our readers how Mr. Hibbert got the victory at last. The Liberals stuck to him throughout, almost to a man. In the first division they numbered 74; in the eleventh, 70. But the Conservatives were not so loyal. In the first division there were forty Conservatives; in the eleventh only fifteen. But these fifteen still threatened mischief, and but for one circumstance they might have perpetuated the struggle.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Ecclesiastical Dilapidations (No. 2) Bill and the Jewish Religious Synagogue Bill were read the second time; the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill was recommitted, and the High Court of Justice Bill was read the third time and passed.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Lord LURGAN then resumed the debate on the Irish Land Bill, and, replying to the criticisms of previous speakers, explained and defended the Ulster custom, or tenant-right. The bill of the Government he thought calculated to improve the position of both tenant and labourer without injuring the interests of the landlords.

Lord DUNSMY, on the other hand, pronounced the measure a grave and an intolerable attack upon the rights of property, and warned the landlords that, if the principles involved in it were applied to Ireland, the most eventually be extended to the rest of the kingdom. He hoped, therefore, it would be materially amended in its future stages.

Lord GREVILLE, alluding to the Ulster custom, pointed out that, wherever it existed, there would be found a prosperous tenantry, with landlords sure of their rents. Much of the distress prevailing amongst the occupiers in other parts of Ireland was attributable to the operation of the Encumbered Estates Act. He emphatically thanked the Government for introducing the principle of compensation for disturbance, and urged them not to abandon that portion of their scheme.

Lord LETHBRIDGE regarded the bill as an unwarrantable measure of spoliation.

Lord LICHFIELD, whilst objecting to legalise Ulster tenant-right, nevertheless recommended that the bill should be passed with no material alteration of principle, and as speedily as possible.

Lord CLANCARTY declared that the bill would deprive the landlord of the management of his property, give rise to litigation and ill-feeling, and utterly fail to pacify Ireland.

Lord POWERSCOURT took an opposite view of the matter, and argued that the measure would do no harm to the just landlord, whilst it would put a restraint on the harshness of the unjust.

The debate was continued by Lords Portarlington, Lansdown, Carnarvon, and the Lord Chancellor, and the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

At the morning sitting Mr. VERNON HARCOURT inquired whether, under the proposed amendments in the Education Bill, there would be any provision for enforcing compulsory attendance in voluntary schools, to which Mr. FORSTER replied that the alterations announced by the Prime Minister the night before would not affect that subject, but he had prepared an amendment to prevent school boards from enforcing attendance at religious instruction. Mr. Forster also stated, in answer to Mr. Tolson, that the Government intended that the additional grant should be given to all public elementary schools, present or future, denominational, national, secular, or rate-assisted.

The remainder of the sitting, until seven o'clock, was devoted to the consideration of the Civil Service Estimates, in Committee of Supply.

UNEMPLOYED LABOUR.

On the House re-assembling, at nine o'clock, Mr. M. TORRENS directed attention to the continued want of employment among the working classes in several of the great towns, and moved a resolution to the effect that this state of things called for the special consideration of the House, with a view to devising an immediate remedy. To show the extent to which want of employment prevailed, the hon. member adduced the testimony of clergy men, manufacturers, builders, and other employers of labour in various districts of the metropolis and in other great centres of population, all of a concurrent character. Glancing at the means of relief, he indicated the reclamation of waste lands, a more equitable distribution of burdens, and, as the Government declined to assist emigration, the opening up of new markets abroad, the provision of facilities for the passage at a cheap rate of workmen from England to Canada and the Australasia, and the giving encouragement to the outflow of our superabundant capital and labour to the colonies generally.

Lord G. HAMILTON seconded the motion, and cited the poor-law returns as to the great increase of pauperism during the last few years in its justification.

Mr. GOSCHEN denied that the state of the country was by any means so bad as it had been represented to be by the mover and seconder of the resolution, and asserted that employment is reviving at all our great centres of industry, and that great numbers of persons who, during the winter and great part of the spring, were dependent upon the poor rates for their maintenance are rapidly obtaining remunerative employment. He quoted from the reports of poor-law and factory inspectors to show how important was the improvement of trade in all the staple industries of the country, coal, iron, lace, cotton, flax, pottery, &c. He did not deny that there still remained enough distress and want of employment to deserve the attention of the Government; but he asserted that the remedy was to be found not in reversing all our past legislation, or resorting to extravagant schemes of education, but in removing from our workmen the disadvantages which hampered them in their competition with foreigners, and encouraging the self-reliance and self-dependence for which they were distinguished.

The debate was adjourned.

MONDAY, JUNE 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

COLONIAL POLICY.

Lord RUSSELL moved an address to the Queen expressing satisfaction at the spontaneous display of loyalty and attachment to the Crown which had lately emanated from many of the colonies, and praying the appointment of a commission to inquire into the means best fitted to guarantee the security of every part of her Majesty's dominions.

After a short debate the motion was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on this bill, Mr. H. RICHARD, presenting himself as the organ of Nonconformist opinion, moved, as an amendment, that the grants to existing denominational schools should not be increased, and that, in any national system of elementary education, the attendance should be everywhere compulsory, and the religious instruction supplied by voluntary effort, and not out of public funds. Declaring that he was wholly disappointed at the bill of the Government, even in its altered shape, Mr. Richard contended that all denominational schools should be maintained as voluntary schools, and that the denominational system was incompatible with any national system of education. He proposed that the State should give a literary and scientific education, and leave to the various Churches the task of imparting religious instruction; and this Mr. Gladstone himself had admitted to him as the only logical method of satisfying the objections of the Nonconformists, whilst it showed no disrespect to religious feeling or a desire to obstruct religious teaching.

Sir C. DILKE, in seconding the motion, spoke strongly in favour of the compulsory principle, and predicted for the Ministerial measure in its present shape nothing but unpopularity. He also pointed out that neither in its title nor in its preamble did it pretend to be a national education scheme. Mr. G. HARDY reminded the House that the "religious difficulty" was one that had not sprung from the people, but was a grievance that had gone down from London into the country, where it would not have been felt and would not have disturbed the public mind unless those who were at head quarters had given the signal. He also expressed his regret that the "year of grace" had been struck out of the bill and the word "forthwith" inserted. If this was done, he asked, were they to get their teachers? It was his anxious desire to give time for those religious schools to be set up which he felt confident were in conformity with the wishes of the people, and that could only be done by means of the "year of grace." Referring to the objects of the League, Mr. Hardy observed that their aim was to get rid of all religious teaching, though by an act of gracious benevolence they would allow the Bible to be read without word or comment. As to the rate-aided schools, he owned he was surprised that Mr. Gladstone should have acceded to the amendment of Mr. Cooper-Temple, inasmuch as it took away the only protection there was in the catechisms, creeds, and formularies of different Churches, and gave to the schoolmasters unlimited power to teach what they pleased. The only way out of the religious difficulty, therefore, was freedom of religious teaching or none at all.

Mr. MELLEY criticised the Ministerial amendments, and, alluding to the religious difficulty, remarked that the tone of the public mind was impatience of the creeds and formularies of men, and a very great affection for the teaching of Holy Writ.

Mr. MORLEY was in favour of conciliation and compromise, and expressed himself a decided opponent to an exclusively secular system, and added that all his experience proved that the people in the mass were opposed to it, and that no parent objected to the use of the Bible in the hands of an honest teacher.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Bill passed through Committee.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, when the amendments of which Lord Darnley and the Earl of Lichfield had given notice were withdrawn.

On clause 1, the Duke of Richmond moved, in line 25, after Act, to insert, "if the Court shall be of opinion that his doing so involves no injustice or breach of contract towards his landlord," the effect of which would be that the option given to tenants to claim compensation under the Ulster custom, or under the other clauses of the bill, should be conditional on the claim not involving breach of contract or injustice to the landlord. Earl Granville thought the amendment unnecessary. Lord Cairns said that a tenant might have forfeited his right to the Ulster custom by a violation of its conditions and then claim under the other clauses. Lord O'Hagan regarded the bill as the best and wisest measure which had ever been brought in on that subject, and as a measure of compensation from a noble and generous people for past evil legislation. He appealed to the House to pass the bill intact as regarded its main principles with the full consciousness that they would promote the peace and prosperity of Ireland and reconcile the people to the government of England. He deprecated the amendment as binding the Court too strictly in points which involved the forfeiture of the tenant's rights. The amendment was opposed by Lord Westbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Duke of Argyll, and was supported by the Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Oranmore, Earl Granville stating that the Government would take the subject into consideration before bringing up the report. The Duke of Richmond withdrew the amendment. Clause 1 was then agreed to.

Clause 2 was agreed to, the amendments to it being withdrawn. On clause 3, which provides for compensation in the absence of custom, the Duke of Richmond objected to the scale the Government had laid down, particularly with regard to small holdings; and moved an amendment reducing the maximum compensation to small holders, from seven years to six years' rent, and the amount from £10 holdings to £4 holdings, and to reduce the five years' scale to holdings of £20 instead of £30, which, on a division, was carried by a majority, the numbers being 92 to 71.

The Earl of Lichfield then moved that in cases where the rent had been raised in consequence of improvements effected by the landlord a deduction should be made in the annual sum claimed as the rent, for the purposes of compensation, not exceeding five per cent interest on the sums so expended in improvements effected by the landlord, and that there would be a presumption, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the increase was in consequence of the expenditure. The amendment was strongly opposed by the Government, but, on a division, was carried by a majority of 113 to 12.

Viscount CLANCARTY moved to add to the paragraph providing that no tenant of a holding of £10 and claiming four years' rent, or a tenant of a holding above £10 and claiming more than five years' rent, should be entitled to a separate claim, except for permanent buildings or reclamation of land, "Provided that no compensation under this section shall be allowed to any tenant under notice to quit for habitual drunkenness, vice, or immorality, or for having after the passing of this Act been convicted of felony or misdemeanour; and also when a landowner made a redistribution of his land requisite for the improvement of the estate, no tenant shall receive compensation unless he can show that he has suffered loss by the change made." After some discussion the latter part of the amendment was agreed to.

The Duke of Richmond moved an amendment to the second subsection of clause 3 prohibiting the subletting of land in conacre. The amendment was opposed by the Government; but on a division taking place it was carried by a majority of 142 to 108. The Duke of Richmond then moved an amendment to the same subsection, prohibiting a tenant subletting his farm to a man who was objectionable to the landlord, and forfeiting his right to compensation if he did so. After a lengthened discussion, the debate was adjourned—Earl GRANVILLE undertaking to bring in an amendment on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

The House resumed the debate on the motion for going into Committee on this bill.

Mr. DIXON complained that the bill, instead of establishing universally free schools, only gave free admission to the very poorest class, and in such a way that the reception of the favour would seem to multiply absolute pauperism. In reference to the religious difficulty, this had been met by the Government in such a manner as to cause the Nonconformist body to rise up and protest against it; and with respect to the school boards, instead of their being thoroughly incorporated in the national system, they were only to be partially established, and the districts in which they were wanting would lose all the advantages that might otherwise be obtained. Again, the mode in which it was proposed to apply the compulsory principle was most unsatisfactory; and the result would be, that while the large towns would adopt it, it would be rejected by the rural districts. As to the denominational system, as dealt with by the bill, it was so bad that it would be impossible to make it work advantageously. To grant permission to teach sectarian religion would necessarily give rise to constant controversy, while it would fail to advance the interests of the children taught in the several schools. In giving his hearty support to the amendment of Mr. Richard, he trusted that the votes which he and others might give would not be regarded as actions.

Mr. Secretary BRUCE, in defending the measure, urged that Parliament had now been called upon for the first time to establish a national system of training they would have had no refuge but in a secular system. The present measure was merely intended as supplementary to the existing plan, which the Government had only professed to extend into districts that had not been supplied with tuition so fully as to test the national feeling on this subject. The discussion of this question, he complained, had been much too exclusively confined within the domain of theological controversy, and he expressed a hope that it would be speedily removed from such narrow limits; and that they would go into Committee with the full and determined purpose of making the bill one that would be satisfactory to the country at large and worthy of so distinguished a body as the British House of Commons.

After further discussion, the debate was adjourned.

THE NATIONAL INCOME from April 1 to June 18 amounted to £14,585,444, or rather over £2,000,000 less than the revenue in the corresponding period of last year. The issues from the Exchequer amounted to £13,592,592, and this was £1,000,000 under the expenditure during the like number of weeks in 1869. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £8,744,976.

THE EDUCATION BILL.—In moving a resolution at the annual meeting of the Education Aid Society, on Monday, the Bishop of Manchester criticised the Government Bill. His Lordship was apprehensive that the Ministry had attempted too much in endeavouring to deal with the rural and the urban populations at one time and in the same way, seeing that their circumstances were as different as could well be conceived. It was feared by some that the bill would extinguish school organisation. If any system of compulsion, direct or indirect, could be secured which should be real and effective, no one would rejoice at the results more than he; but compulsion represented a power that was hateful to all Englishmen. A professedly compulsory law, which was not effective, and which was constantly trampled under foot, was about the most destructive thing to the social structure which could be put upon the statute-book. Unless compulsion became effective they would be better without it.

THE LADY GODIVA SHOW.—This ancient pageant was observed at Coventry, on Monday, on a scale of unusual grandeur. At an early hour heavily-laden excursion-trains arrived from all parts of the country, bringing in many thousands of visitors. The principal buildings and streets were dressed out gaily with flags, banners, and devices. Peeping Tom's effigy, at the corner of Hertford-street and Smithford-street, had been renovated and made attractive. The services of a young lady from one of the Birmingham concert-halls were secured. The show commenced at ten minutes to one o'clock, when the young lady in question rode forth from St. Mary's Hall mounted on a white palfrey. There was loud cheering when she made her appearance, and the bells of St. Michael's Church sent forth a merry peal. She was dressed in flesh tights, which fitted closely round the neck, and wore a white fall. The procession, which was over a mile in length, comprised a detachment of the 5th Dragon Guards, who rode on each side of Lady Godiva; a number of freemen, clothed in the ancient city armour belonging to the Corporation; Manders' Royal Menagerie band, seated in a superbly-gilded chariot, drawn by three elephants, two dromedaries, and two camels; banners, the Knight St. George, Knights Templars, the Drapers' Company with banner, the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association with banner, the City banner, the rifle corps band, the Fire Brigade, the Watchmakers' Provident Society, Allegorical Representations of the Four Seasons, the Odd Fellows, the Robin Hood band; the Foresters, with splendid banner; representative characters, Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Will Scarlet, Little John, Friar Tuck; 1st Warwickshire Militia band, Ancient Order of Druids, the Order of the Patriarchs, military band, oriel, beadle, Lady Godiva; Leofric, Earl of Mercia; Edward the Black Prince, band, banners, Richard II.; Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Hereford; King Henry IV.; Sir John Blount, King Henry VI.; Queen Margaret, Henry VIII., Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, Sir Thomas White, Sir Wm. Dugdale, and many other historical characters. The procession was upwards of five hours marching through the principal streets. All the personages were dressed up in costumes of the period.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1870.

ACCIDENTS AND INSPECTION.

Of course, the affair at Newark is an accident, and no one is to blame for the breaking of an axletree. What right have we to expect to get over the excursion season without a smash or two, in which scores of lives should be lost? Is not a Parliamentary Committee now sitting which has been moved for and obtained expressly in the railway interest, in order to relieve it from something of which it now suffers occasionally in the shape of damages? What can be more ridiculous than the idea that a railway company contracts to carry its passengers to their terminus safely, the act of God excepted? Is not a railway train exactly in the same position as a ship at sea, and who ever heard of an action against the Inman or Cunard Company for the loss of a vessel in a storm?

All this is wonderfully cogent, and we have no doubt, speaking very seriously, that railway companies are much fleeced in these matters. Rascality is so rife in this world that the professional damages-hunter soon becomes a regular parasite of a state of things in which railway companies are held, as they must be held, responsible for loss of life and limb and other injuries; and some clear cases of fraud have been directly made out, whilst others, not so clear, have been with good reason suspected. Nevertheless, it is perfectly certain that the caution we exercise should always be in proportion to the power we set in motion and the risk we incur; and the railway system has greatly outrun the constable in these matters. The staff is too small on every line. It consists of men who are underpaid, and whose character and qualifications are below what they ought to be, considering their labours and responsibilities. And what about inspection? The permanent-way and rolling stock of a railway ought to undergo very frequent examination at the hands of a person above suspicion, from the first-class locomotive to the wheels and axles of the meanest waggon and the couplings and breaks of the cheapest luggage-train. It is all very well to say an axletree broke; but why should an axletree break?

It is impossible to pass through London—so many of its streets spanned by railway arches—without occasional apprehensions. One of these days the wall of a railway bridge will break, and a train will come lumbering down into a crowded street. And is there anybody who frequently examines the arches as wholes, to see that they are strong enough to bear? How often are the railway bridges that cross the Thames inspected?

These are not comfortable questions, but it is not with feelings of comfort that a man provides rope ladders or insures his life—he feels comfortable afterwards. We have no desire that railway companies—which means bodies of men and women whose interests in the concern may be on an average £50 a piece—should suffer unjustly; but it would be a disastrous thing if, when the screw were taken off them in part (as it probably will be), they were to spend even less than they do now in the most important part of their duty. The story of railway enterprise is one of the most humiliating chapters in human history. The railway has stood side by side with the printing-press as one of the main symbols of progress; but it has been mainly worked by scamps. The chief reason of the depression under which all property of the kind is now suffering is that directors, traffic managers, solicitors, barristers, and Parliamentary agents have for years been conspiring to waste the money of the shareholders in "fancy" or speculation lines, got up for the sole purpose of putting money into the pockets of engineers and their parasites. The result is what we all know. And the only consolation for the friends of the eighteen killed and ever so many wounded at Newark is the everlasting—"Why, my dear Sir, in proportion to the number of people who travel, the accidents are not half as many as they used to be in the old coaching days!"

THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, on Tuesday evening last, made an observation which deserves to be remembered, especially by himself and other supporters of what is humorously called the Permissive Prohibitory Bill. Earl Russell appears to have opposed a certain measure before the House on the ground that it was opposed to the British Constitution. "Earl Russell," said Sir W. Lawson, "is the only man left in these islands who cares two straws for the British Constitution. The question is not whether a thing is constitutional, but whether it is just." This is an admirable sentiment; but, since men do not gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles, who would have expected it from a gentleman who maintains the right of a local majority to carry a "permissive prohibitory" measure over the heads of a local minority against their wills?

TUESDAY, JUNE 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland took the oath and his seat as Baron O'Hagan in the Peerage of the United Kingdom.

The second reading of the Married Woman's Property Bill, which had come up with the sanction of the Commons, having been moved by Lord Cairns.

Lord PENZANCE observed that, although a fair case had been made out for legislation, this measure went far beyond what was required, and would produce more evil than good. Not only would the married woman have sole command over her own property, but, after wasting that, she would be entitled to claim maintenance at the cost of her husband and children. She would also have the right to sustain an action on her own behalf and carry on business without her husband's consent; in short, the bill would revolutionise not only the common law but the married state itself.

Lord WESTBURY urged that the bill ought not to be allowed to pass until the provisions had been brought more into conformity with both the law of the country and the domestic customs that had prevailed for more than a thousand years.

Lord SHAFTESBURY, treating the subject from a social point of view, insisted upon the necessity for passing some such bill, even at the sacrifice of cherished principles of law.

The LORD CHANCELLOR counselled the reference of the bill to a Select Committee, with the view of divesting it of its more objectionable features. He believed that by an expansion of the tenth clause, all that was required might be done in the present Session, without attempting, as the bill did, to make a married woman a man by Act of Parliament.

After some observations by Lord LYVEDEN and the Duke of CLEVELAND, the bill was read the second time, and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

The adjourned debate on the Elementary Education Bill was resumed by Mr. MIALI, who complained of Mr. Forster that in his speech of the previous night he had unfairly cast upon the advocates of the secular system the responsibility of defeating the measure, if it did not pass this Session. As the measure now stood, he was convinced it was not adapted to meet the wants of the country; that it effected no compromise between the two sections of opinion in the House; and that it would not secure a permanent settlement of the question. He should therefore support the amendment of Mr. Richard.

Sir C. B. ADDERLEY remarked that the only difficulty in the way of a settlement was the religious difficulty, and that could only apply to the new schools; for by long habit it had already disappeared from the old ones. Granting that the solution of the difficulty proposed by Ministers was unsatisfactory, still it was better than their original scheme, and better than Mr. Richard's amendment, though it ought not to apply to a greater number of schools than was absolutely necessary.

Mr. V. HARCOURT, being an advocate of unsectarian and secular education, should decline to vote for either bill or amendment.

Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE, in support of the bill as amended by the acceptance on the part of Ministers of the motion he had placed on the paper, and which would render the education religious instead of secular.

Lord R. MONTAGU insisted that religious teaching must be given in the schools, and, if that were done, such teaching must be denominational. As to Mr. Richard's amendment, it would strike a blow at every religious school in the country and violate the fundamental principle of religious liberty.

Mr. O. MORGAN admitted the responsibility which rested upon the opponents of the bill; but held that a still greater responsibility was incurred by those who, in their anxiety to pass a measure this year, were determined to do so even though the religious difficulty were left unsettled. In his opinion the amendment of Mr. Richard was the only logical and the only possible solution of that difficulty.

Mr. MONTAGU opposed the amendment of Mr. Richard, though he felt the Government had made a mistake in proposing to increase the grant to denominational schools; a proceeding which would be most unpopular in the country and received with universal disapprobation by the Nonconformist body. What he should like to see established, if the subject were now to be dealt with for the first time, was the national system of education introduced into Ireland by the late Earl of Derby.

On the motion of Mr. Dixon, the debate was then adjourned until Thursday.

BISHOPS IN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. S. BEAUMONT asked leave to bring in a bill to relieve bishops, hereafter to be consecrated, from attendance in Parliament. He contended that his proposal was alike reasonable and opportune, and that the presence of these right rev. persons in the House of Lords was advantageous neither to Church nor State.

Mr. LOCKE-KING seconded the motion.

Sir W. LAWSON would have been better pleased with the motion had it gone further and proposed to turn the whole of the bishops out of Parliament; for they had always opposed every just, wise, and humane measure.

Mr. GLADSTONE announced that it was the intention of Ministers to resist the bill, which would give a new title to all the prelates who have now seats in the Lords; for, if Parliament were to pronounce that no future bishops should be allowed to sit there, it would by that very act stamp afresh the title of the present bishops. Were the supporters of the bill disposed to give a lease of equal length to the Church itself? Did they mean that so long as the bishops sat in the other House the Church of England should continue to be an Establishment? Remove the prelates from the House of Lords, and the first effect would be to detract from their dignity, and the next to greatly weaken the influence of the State, the external world, society, public opinion, and modern civilisation over the Episcopacy. The bishops of the Church of England might have had their faults; but they had been eminently distinguished for their independence and their high character, and it was an undoubted fact that bishops appointed by Liberal Governments had always been found in opposition to those Governments. The main and governing reason of Ministers, however, for objection to the motion was the character which it bore in relation to the position of the House of Lords. If there was to be a House of Lords in this country, as there ever had been, it was as well that it should be as strong as possible, and that we should have collected there all the elements of strength. Among those elements he knew none so important as that of diversity, and in a hereditary chamber they could not afford to part with the weight, the power, and the influence which that assembly derived from the presence of the bishops.

After a brief reply by Mr. Beaumont, the motion was negatived by 158 to 102.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. AYRTON announced his intention to withdraw the Kensington-road Improvement Bill.

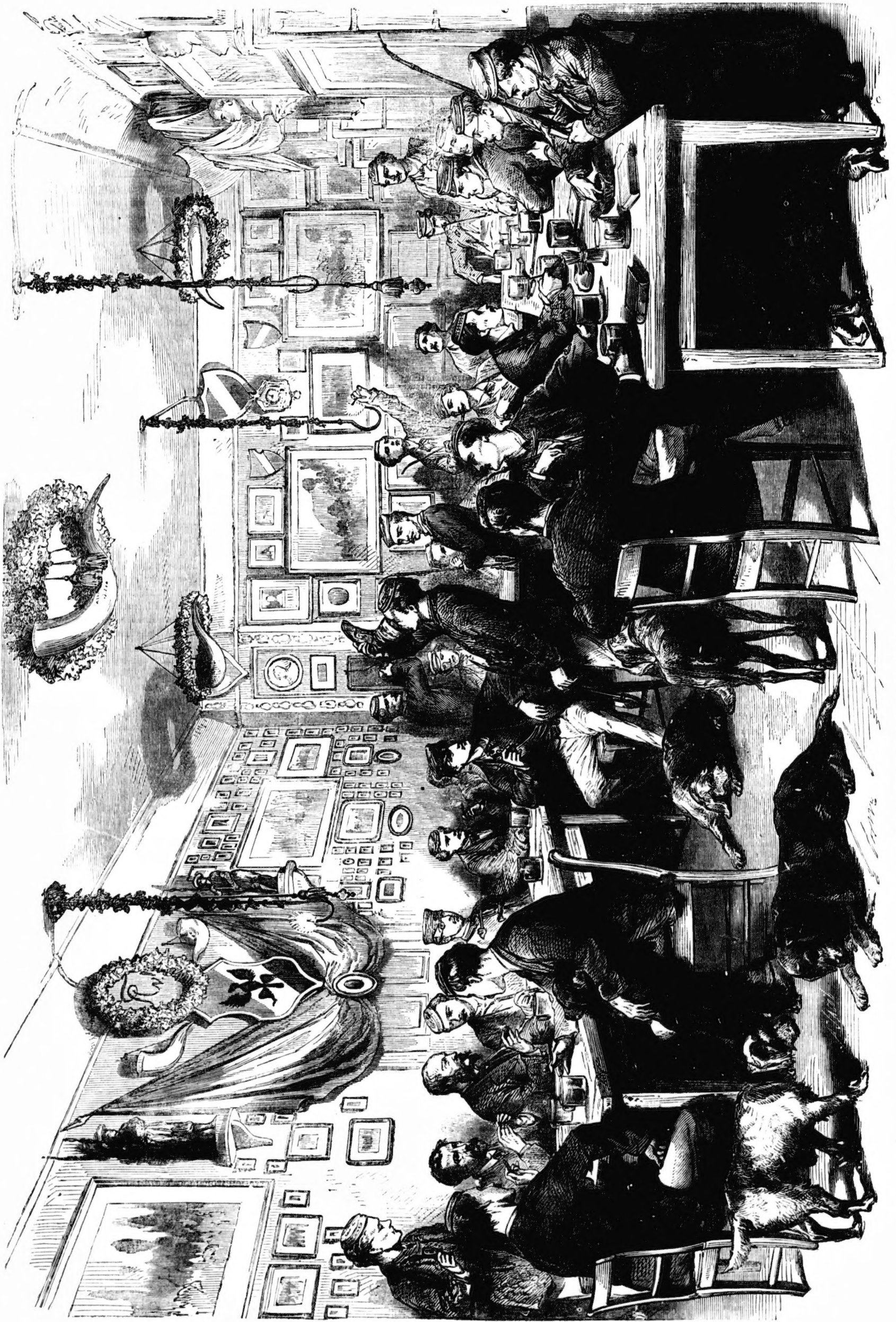
The Medical Officers' Superannuation Bill was read the second time, after an amendment for its rejection had been negatived, on a division, by 129 to 28.

The bill of Sir G. Jenkinson, allowing an appeal to criminals sentenced to capital punishment, was opposed by Mr. J. D. Lewis, the Attorney-General, Mr. Lopes, and the Home Secretary, chiefly on the ground that, whilst the measure gave the right of appeal to the convict, it withheld it from the Crown in cases where prisoners were wrongfully acquitted. The constitution and power of the court of appeal were also objected to, and ultimately the second reading was negatived without a division.

Mr. W. FOWLER moved the second reading of the Brokers' (City of London) Bill, the object of which is to relieve the brokers of the City from the supervision of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen. The hon. member, in explaining the necessity for the measure, stated that the system of administering oaths to the brokers was unknown in any other town in the kingdom, that even in London all other trades were exempt from it, and that its restriction to the brokers affixed a stigma to that class, and did injury in individual cases without the possibility of redress. The motion was seconded by Mr. BARKING, who observed that he made no charge against the Corporation for the manner in which they discharged their duties, though he thought they would gain in character by assenting to the bill. He admitted, also, that they ought to be compensated for the amount of fees (between £6000 and £7000 a year) which they would have to surrender. At the instance of Mr. EYKYN, the debate was at length adjourned.

The second reading of the Settled Estates Bill was moved by Mr. STAPLETON; but the bill was "talked out" by Mr. GOLDNEY, who spoke in opposition to it until a quarter to six, the time for suspending disputed business.

The Lodgers' Goods Protection Bill and the Joint-Stock Companies Arrangement Bill were read the second time; and the Public Health (Scotland) Supplemental Bill was read the third time and passed.



A STUDENTS PARTY IN THE HALL OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY AT HEIDELBERG.

A GERMAN SYMPOSIUM.

SURELY the undergraduate who, on being asked who was the greatest benefactor the world ever produced, replied, "Undoubtedly, Bass," and was thereupon plucked, was widely representative of college student life. The sustenance with which Alma Mater rears her children would seem to be beer, so that in this respect she resembles other wet-nurses, who regard their "cleven" and their dinner and supper porter as a necessity. Our illustration of the scene at the assembly-room or club of the Allmannian Society at Heidelberg is strongly suggestive of the conservative ardour with which our German cousins maintain their reputation as mighty consumers of malt. Some other customs, more honoured in the breach than in the observance, may have been reformed or abolished. A few years ago sabre duels and fights with small-swords were everyday occurrences among the hot-blooded but deliberately-fightable representatives of the Universities of Bonn, Heidelberg, and other places. Happily this savage and degrading practice of duelling is dying out;

and though we do occasionally hear of injuries inflicted in such a fashion, the punishment is severe for an infraction of the college rules, which forbid "sword practice" or any contest with weapons, unless the face is properly masked and vital parts of the body protected. However, it is not with these past conflicts that we have to do. Our Engraving represents the peaceful fellowship of the society where young men meet to discuss, to smoke, and to drink, in moderation—that is to say, in Germanic moderation, the beverage that all students seem to love. Just fancy the great men to whom the world is indebted for the profoundest learning having been members of some such symposium! Heine, Hegel, Kant, Fichte: one is compelled to doubt whether they really took part in such assemblies; and yet we know that Coleridge was not insensible to a pleasant quaffing of something better than the drug that nearly slew him; that dear Charles Lamb would revel in a "pot of porter," and that dozens of our great philosophers and divines took and still take kindly to the pewter. Longfellow gives us some vivid pictures of these

German customs at old Heidelberg, most glorious and picturesque, most scholastically and bibulously suggestive of towns. He has transcribed the song which tells how the "Fox" grows to be a Bursch, and how the Burschen hail the transformation by means of pipes and beer; how the champion swilled a postillion's boot full of beer, and then remarked that the boots always went in pairs, so that he was entitled to another.

Here in our picture, taken from the life, is a bold and robust wagger engaged in a similar mighty draught, amidst the anxious or interested regards of his confrères; and he will accomplish it; for who that has seen the great *siedels* of Baërish or Bavarian filled and refilled as the air grew dim with the smoke from those great painted pipes, can doubt the vast capacity of the Allmannian for his favourite liquor? Such an incident as this draining of the boot is an event of the evening. Conversations on the great questions of supernaturalism, electric affinity, the ego, and Germanic hegemony, are for the moment suspended, if they have formed part of the evening's amusements. Even the carcasses of the great



THE BURIAL-PLACE OF DICKENS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—(SEE ILLUSTRATED TIMES, JUNE 18, PAGE 386)

hounds whose noble heads rest beneath their masters' arms are unnoticed while grave and deliberate gusto the champion advocate of the national beverage performs his expressive feat. It is more than a mere exhibition of sensuous indulgence; there is a Germanesque allegorical reference in it which renders it a natural part of the proceedings of a society which is in itself intensely German.

THE LATE CHARLES DICKENS.

SERMON BY DEAN STANLEY.

THERE was an immense congregation at Westminster Abbey, on Sunday afternoon, to hear the funeral sermon which the Dean had announced his intention of preaching in connection with the death of Mr. Charles Dickens. A great many distinguished persons (literary men more particularly) were present—Mr. Tennyson among them.

The Dean took his text from the Gospel of the day, the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. He showed that the story of Dives and Lazarus formed something more than an ordinary "parable;" and that, in spite of both the one and the other being "as purely imaginary beings as Hamlet or Shylock," it was a "tale of real life—so real that we can hardly believe it to be fiction, and not an actual history." The Bible, then, urged the preacher, sanctions this mode of teaching, which has been in a special sense God's gift to our own age. "In various ages," he continued, "this gift has assumed various forms—the divine flame of poetry, the far-

reaching page of science, the searching analysis of philosophy, the glorious page of history, the stirring eloquence of preacher or orator, the grave address of moralist or divine—all these we have had in ages past, and to some extent we have them still; but no age has developed like this the gift of speaking in parables, of teaching by fiction." "Poetry," he continued, "may kindle a loftier fire, the drama may rivet the attention more firmly, science may open a wider horizon, and philosophy may touch a deeper spring, but no works are so penetrating or so persuasive, enter so many houses, or attract so many readers, as the romance or novel of modern times." And in proportion as the good novel is the best, so is the bad novel the worst of instructors; but the work of the successful novelist, if pure in style, elevating in thought, and true in its sentiment, is the best of blessings to the Christian home, which the bad writer would debase and defile. In the writings of Charles Dickens it is clearly shown that "it is possible to move both old and young to laughter without the use of a single expression which could defile the purest or shock the most sensitive;" he taught a lesson to the world that it is possible to jest without the introduction of depraving scenes or the use of unseemly and filthy jokes. "So thought and so wrote, not only the genial and loving humourist whom we mourn, but Walter Scott, and Jane Austen, and Elizabeth Gaskell, and William Thackeray." But, he urged, there was something even higher than this to be learned in the writings of Charles Dickens, and which it was well to speak of in the House of God, and beside

that new-laid grave. "In that long series of stirring tales, now closed, there was a palpably serious truth—might he not say a Christian and Evangelical truth?—of which we all needed much to be reminded, and of which in his own way he was the special teacher. In spite of the Oriental imagery with which it is surrounded, the Gospel tells us, and the departed writer did but re-echo the truth, that the Rich Man and Lazarus lived very near and close to each other; he showed us, in his own dramatic and sympathetic manner, how close that lesson lay at the gates of the upper and wealthier classes of modern English society in this age of widespread civilisation and luxury." The Poor Man had but one name given to him in the parable; but in the writings of Charles Dickens he bore many names and wore many forms—now coming to us in the type of the forlorn outcast, now in that of the workhouse child struggling towards the good amid an atmosphere of cruelty, injustice, and vice. "We have need, then," the Dean continued, "of such a teacher to remind us of one great lesson of life, the duty of sympathy with the poor and the weak, with the absent, and with those who cannot speak for themselves. And it is because this susceptibility, this gift of sympathy, is so rare that we ought to value it highly where we meet it, and to reckon it as a gift from God." "As the Rich Man was made to see and to feel Lazarus at his gate, so our departed instructor taught us to realise, as brought into very near contact with ourselves, the suffering inmates of the workhouse, the neglected children in the dens and

dark corners of the streets of our great cities, the starved and ill-used boys in remote schools far from the observation of the world at large." And, further, the same faithful hand which thus depicted the sufferings of the poor man drew also pictures of that unselfish kindness, that kindly patience, that tender thoughtfulness, that sympathy for the weak and helpless, which often underlies a rough exterior. "When the little workhouse boy wins his way, pure and undefiled, through the mazes of wickedness into a happy home, when the little orphan girl brings thoughts of heaven into the hearts of all around her, and is as if the very gift of God to those whose desolate life she cheers, there is a lesson taught which none can read and learn without being the better for it. In fact, he laboured to tell us the old, old story, that even in the very worst and most hardened of mankind there is some soft and tender point, and, what is more, a soul worth being touched and reached, and rescued and regenerated. He helped to blot out the hard line which too often severs class from class, and made Englishmen feel more as one family than they had felt before. Therefore it was felt that he had not lived in vain, or been laid in vain here in this sacred house, which is the home and the heart of the English nation." There was, of course, to be learned from the text one further great and fearful lesson—the solemn weight and burden of individual responsibility of each man to his Maker for the life that he has led, and the use he has made of the talents vouchsafed to him. This lesson was brought very closely home to those fourteen mourners and the handful of other persons who were gathered a few days before in the silence and stillness of that vast empty church around the grave of the great novelist. But he would not dwell long on this lesson, nor would he add there any eulogy on the dead, further than to remark that his grave, already strewn with flowers, would henceforth be a sacred spot both with the New World as well as with the Old, as that of the representative of the literature, not of this island only, but of all who speak our English tongue. The Dean then read the following extract from Mr. Dickens's will, dated May 12, 1869:—

"I direct that my name be inscribed in plain English letters on my tomb. . . . I enjoin my friends on no account to make me the subject of any monument, memorial, or testimonial whatever. I rest my claims to the remembrance of my country upon my published works, and the remembrance of my friends upon their experience of me in addition thereto. . . . I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and I exhort my dear children to try to guide themselves by the teaching of the New Testament in its broad spirit, and to put no faith in any man's narrow construction of its letter."

"In that simple but sufficient faith," concluded the Dean, "Charles Dickens lived and died. In that faith he would have you all live and die also; and if any of you have learned from his works the eternal value of generosity, purity, kindness, and unselfishness, and to carry them out in action, those are the best 'monuments, memorials, and testimonials' which you, his fellow-countrymen, can raise to his memory."

PROFESSOR JOWETT ON DICKENS.

Mr. Jowett, in his evening sermon at the Abbey, also referred to Mr. Dickens's death. In closing, Mr. Jowett said:—"He whose loss we now mourn occupied a greater space than any other writer in the minds of Englishmen during the last thirty-five years. We read him, talked about him, acted him; we laughed with him, we were roused by him to a consciousness of the misery of others, and to a pathetic interest in human life. The workhouse child, the cripple, the half-clothed and half-starved inhabitant of a debtors' prison found a way to his heart, and, through the exertions of his genius, to touch our hearts also. Works of fiction would be intolerable if they attempted to be sermons directly to instruct us; but indirectly they are great instructors of this world; and we can hardly exaggerate the debt of gratitude which is due to a writer who has led us to sympathise with these good, true, sincere, honest English characters of ordinary life, and to laugh at the egotism, the hypocrisy, the false respectability of religious professors and others. To another great humourist who lies in this church the words have been applied that the gaiety of nations was eclipsed by his death. But of him who has been recently taken I would rather say, in humble language, that no one was ever so much beloved or so much mourned. Men seem to have lost not a great writer only, but one whom they had personally known. And so we bid him farewell."

M. LOUIS BLANC ON DICKENS.

M. Louis Blanc contributes an article on Dickens to the Paris *Rappel*, in which he specially refers to the light estimation in which cosmopolitan France holds her national celebrities, and contrasts it with the patriotic admiration Englishmen display for their fellow-countrymen who have become distinguished. Citing a criticism on Charles Dickens from a London paper, in which expression is given to this admiration, he says that, although other papers have spoken in more sober language, the general tone has been marked by the same exaggeration. M. Louis Blanc considers that Mr. Dickens was a humourist with less originality than Shakespeare, less sensibility than Cervantes, less depth than Jean Paul, and less *bonhomie* than Sterne. He did not, M. Louis Blanc thinks, regard the vices he describes quite seriously enough, and weakened the moral effect of his pictures by the comic colouring given to them. The influence of his novels was, however, highly salutary on the whole; and in his writings he always respected himself and respected his readers, while the sanctity of the domestic hearth never had a more reverential painter or a more charming apostle.

AMERICAN OPINION.

In the New York papers of the 11th inst. there are long biographical notices of Charles Dickens, as well as articles suggested by his death. The *New York Times* is of opinion that, except Sir Walter Scott, no other writer has ever done so much to while away the weary hours of young and old. "In lonely places of the earth," it says, "his books have been an unfailing solace to many an exile, and they have shed hope and light in many a sick room, and comforted many an afflicted heart. Over the whole range of the domestic instinct Mr. Dickens possessed a thorough mastery. There, indeed, was his stronghold." His name, it says, in conclusion, will be spoken with gratitude and affection as long as our language endures. The *Tribune* says that, without a suspicion of demagoguism, and without uttering one insincere word, Charles Dickens made himself as truly the poet and prophet of the people, in prose, as Burns was their chosen singer in verse. "It is for this reason," it adds, "that, wherever the English language is spoken, Charles Dickens was cherished as a friend." At the weekly prayer meeting of Plymouth Church, on the 10th, the Rev. Mr. Beecher spoke of the deceased author, and said there was not a line of his writings that tended to produce licentiousness or dissipation. On the one subject of drink, however, an exception must be made; for Mr. Dickens belonged to the old school that did not advocate temperance principles—a school that was passing away. Mr. Beecher said, in conclusion, he could not but be grateful to God for Charles Dickens. "He had performed a great and a good work, which it seemed God had sent him to do. He had fulfilled his allotted part in the great cause of human progress—well, bravely, nobly. Peace be to his memory."

DICKENS'S HOUSE AT GADSHILL.

A proposal has been started at Rochester—probably consequent upon the reported early sale of the Gadshill house and grounds—having for its object the purchase and preservation of Charles Dickens's favourite abiding place as a national memento of this popular author. It is suggested that the house should be retained by Mr. Dickens's family for a term, to be named by themselves, at the expiration of which, with their consent, the place will merge in trustees. Dickens passed the morning and afternoon of his last day on earth in the chalet, presented to him by a few Swiss admirers two years since, which is erected in the

shrubbery opposite his residence, and approached by a tunnel underneath the turnpike road. This chalet, embosomed in the foliage of some very fine trees, stands upon an eminence commanding a magnificent view of the mouth of the Thames and the opposite coast of Essex. It was a favourite retreat with Dickens.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Princesses Louisa and Beatrice, returned to Windsor, last Saturday morning, from Balmoral. The thirty-third anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne was celebrated on Monday. Her Majesty has reigned longer than any other Sovereign now wielding power in Europe.

THE PRINCE OF WALES and General Sir W. Knollys have been unanimously elected members of the Royal Athletic Club. The sports and dinner will be held at Westward Ho, in Devonshire, in August. His Royal Highness, it is understood, will visit Ireland that month, during the holding of the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Ballinacree. It is also stated, in well-informed quarters, that her Majesty will visit Ireland in September.

PRINCESS MARQUERITE OF ORLEANS on Tuesday laid the first stone of the Tower-hill Industrial and Poor Schools—an educational institution which will meet the wants of the Irish and Roman Catholic children in the east end of London.

A STATE BALL was given on Tuesday night in Buckingham Palace, at which the attendance of nobility and gentry was extremely numerous.

MR. CHILDERS'S STATE OF HEALTH is such that his medical advisers will not allow of his leaving England for the present, as he had been previously advised to do, but prescribe a short period of rest within reach of London.

MR. HUGH MASON has just presented an extensive public park and gymnasium to the town of Ashton-under-Lyne.

MISS M. L. WHATELY, daughter of the late Archbishop of Dublin, whose philanthropic labours among the poor at Cairo are well known, has arrived in England. Miss Whately intends to return to her disinterested and self-imposed duties in a few weeks.

MISS RYE starts for "Our Western Home," Niagara, Canada West, on July 14, with one hundred more little orphan girls. Miss Rye adds that the expenses incurred in commencing as well as in carrying on this work are very great, and she is needing further help.

A BRITISH PEERAGE has been offered, at the suggestion of the Queen, to Lord Howth, and has been accepted.

THE SECTION OF THE THAMES EMBANKMENT between the Temple and Blackfriars is to be opened at the end of July or the beginning of August.

MR. WOOLNER is to execute, by request, a bust of Mr. Charles Dickens, and has the advantage of a mask which was cast for the purpose.

THE DECEASE OF THE SISTER OF SILVIO PELLICO is announced, at the age of seventy-two. It is said that she has left memoirs which will serve as a sequel to her brother's touching production, "Le Mle Prigione," as well as being a highly-interesting contribution to the moral and political history of the Austro-Venetian territory in the period from 1830 to 1850.

THE AMERICAN PACIFIC MAIL STEAM-SHIP COMPANY propose in future to run a fortnightly line of steamers in the North Pacific between San Francisco and Hong-Kong. The arrangements are not yet, however, finally matured.

A SALMON was taken at St. Haggie's Fishery Station, near Perth, last week, weighing 70 lb. It measured 4 ft. 6 in. in length and 32 in. in girth.

MR. VINCENT PORTILLA, the first Spanish-Mexican who has ever been entered at an English University, has just gained a scholarship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Mr. Portilla was educated at Bruce Castle School.

A FIRE broke out in a hat manufactory, in Leeds, on Tuesday morning, in which two women, employed on the premises, were burnt to death.

A PLAN for a system of tramways in the streets of Calcutta has been submitted to the Government. The estimated cost is £2000 per mile.

LADY SIMPSON, widow of Sir James Y. Simpson, died, at Killin, Perthshire, on the 17th inst.

A YOUNG ELEPHANT, presented to the Duke of Edinburgh by Jung Bahadur, was made use of on board the *Galatea* at Gallé to haul on board 300 tons of coal, saving the labour of about thirty men.

THE HONOUR OF KNIGHTHOOD is about to be conferred on Mr. John Henry Briggs, Chief Clerk of the Admiralty, and on Mr. Antonio Brady, Superintendent of Contracts.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE had a double attraction on Tuesday—the great "drill review," in which 3000 boys were the performers, under the auspices of Prince Teck, and a national dog show, pronounced to be one of the best which has ever been held.

WILLIAM HENRY WHITE, a director of the Manchester Insurance and Banking Company, was again taken before the Lord Mayor, on Wednesday, on a charge of fraud. The evidence for the prosecution was completed, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

MANY INDIAN STUDENTS have this year arrived in England for the completion of their studies, and promise to constitute a notable element in academic life. Two have already entered at Christ Church.

MR. SAMUEL GREENWAY FINNEY, late manager of the English Joint-Stock Bank, now in liquidation, has been adjudicated a bankrupt. His debt to the bank is £3600.

A CABMAN was fined 1s. and 2s. costs, at the Westminster Police Court, last Saturday, for not having immediately provided for the disinfection of his cab after having conveyed in it a smallpox patient to the hospital at Highgate.

A WARDEN NAMED EDWARD BLIGH, employed at Portland Prison, who was brutally attacked by a convict several weeks ago, has died from the injuries which were then inflicted.

A RUPTURE BETWEEN HOLLAND AND VENEZUELA is imminent, in consequence of the seizure by President Blanco of the Dutch mail-steamer *Hondius* for carrying contraband war materials. A Dutch corvette has gone to Loquayra to demand reparation.

COLONEL LOYD-LINDSAY, M.P., suggests that there should be a meeting of "learned and good men of different denominations" to settle a scheme of unsectarian Christianity which may be taught in the national schools without offence to anybody. The mere reading of the Bible will be understood, Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay thinks, "about as much as the musical but unmeaning cry of a dervish on the top of a minaret."

MR. MANSFIELD, at the Marylebone Police Court, last week, expressed his disapproval of the prosecutions instituted by a society, which systematically summoned tradesmen for infringing the Sunday Observance Act of Charles II. Such proceedings, he thought, ought to be carried out by responsible authorities, and should not be taken up by private individuals.

THE TRIENNIAL "COMMEMORATION" at Oxford has drawn together a brilliant assemblage of rank and fashion. The Marquis of Salisbury, who was installed, on Tuesday, in succession to the late Earl of Derby as Chancellor, was attended by his two little sons as trainbearers, an arrangement at once novel and interesting. Twenty-two honorary degrees were conferred.

THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION has received a contribution, amounting to £12 9s. 3d., from Mr. Robert B. Wormald, of *Bell's Life*, being one moiety of the surplus fund arising from the hire of a steamer by the gentlemen of the Press, on the occasion of the late University boat-race, the other half of the surplus having been voted to the Newspaper Press Fund.

THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE and the London Nonconformist Committee on Education met on Tuesday. Both bodies expressed disapproval of the amended scheme of the Government, and at each meeting a resolution was passed declaring that it would be better to postpone legislation on the subject than to allow the measure now before Parliament to pass into a law.

MR. LEONARD EDMUNDS, who was lately arrested for a debt due to the Crown, applied through counsel to a Judge in chambers for his discharge from Whitecross-street, under the new Act of Parliament, by which imprisonment for debt was abolished. Mr. Justice Wille has, however, held that the exemption did not apply to Crown debts, and refused the application.

THE NEW COLLEGE AT DULWICH was on Tuesday opened by the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Princess, and the ceremony was made the occasion for the gathering of a numerous and brilliant assemblage. Prizes to the successful boys were distributed by the Prince, who afterwards presided at a luncheon, and expressed hearty wishes for the prosperity of the scholars and the continued success of the college.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND has placed upon the notice paper of the House of Lords several amendments to the clauses of the Irish Land Bill. The more important of these relate to the scale of compensation for the disturbance of a tenant's holding, and to the lowering of the term of years which will exempt a landlord from liability to penalties for eviction. The amendments embody provisions unsuccessfully put forward in the Commons by Mr. Disraeli, Dr. Ball, Mr. Plunkett, and Mr. Bruen.

THE SHIP FAIR WIND, Captain Symonds, which left Rangoon for Europe early in May, had to put back under very sad circumstances. It seems that one day the captain, having called to the steward once or twice without receiving any answer, left the deck and was heard reprimanding the man for his inattention. A short time afterwards the chief officer, happening to pass the steward's cabin, found the steward and the captain struggling. He at once separated them, when suddenly the steward pulled out a knife and stabbed the captain to the heart. The murderer is in custody.

THE LOUNGER.

THAT division upon Mr. Somerset Beaumont's "Bill to Relieve Lords Spiritual (hereafter to be consecrated) from Attendance in Parliament" was surely, Mr. Editor, a very significant sign of the times. The numbers against the bill were 158; for the bill, 102; majority against, 56. The majority I need not notice, except to express my surprise that it was not much larger; and, of course, it could have been made much larger. I have reason to believe that the opinion of the House would, if all were polled, be indicated by the following figures. Taking the number of members at 658, there would be for the measure about 132; against it about 526. Well, of course, this is an overwhelming majority. But still, that there are 132 members of Parliament who approve of such a change, is, to my mind, an astonishing fact. Twenty years ago a motion for disestablishing the Irish Church would not have been supported by half this number; but the Irish Church is now disestablished. And it is quite possible, I think—it is probable, some say; certain a few of the more sanguine affirm—that in less than twenty years a measure like that of Mr. Beaumont will be carried. And why not? Are the Bishops more firmly fixed on their seats than we thought the Irish Church stood twenty years ago? Moreover, opinions will grow and spread more rapidly during the next twenty years than they did during the last. And, further, it cannot be doubted that if the people could be polled an immense majority would vote for cutting the Bishops adrift, and the mind of the people can get itself now expressed in Parliament as it never could before 1868; and when we shall vote by ballot, as we shall do doubtless at the next general election, the House will represent still more fully the mind of the people.

By-the-by, I am much inclined to agree with one argument adduced by Mr. Gladstone against Mr. Somerset Beaumont's proposal to refuse a seat in the Lords to all bishops hereafter consecrated. Said the Premier, in effect, if the presence of the bishops in Parliament be an anomaly, let them remain; for the greater number of anomalies there be in connection with the Church establishment, the shorter will be its existence as a State institution. And he is right. If a thing be only moderately bad, it may live a long time in this country; but if it be offensively and indefinitely bad, it is doomed to speedy extinction. So let the State Church retain all her anomalies, say I; she will be all the sooner abolished.

A foolish rumour has got abroad that "somebody" was to finish "Edwin Drood;" as if anyone would have the presumption to put his hand to the work of Charles Dickens! I am glad to find, by a letter from the publishers, that this notion is authoritatively set at rest. Messrs. Chapman and Hall say:—"Mr. Dickens has left three numbers complete, in addition to those already published, this being one half of the story as it was intended to be written. These numbers will be published, and the fragment will so remain. No other writer could be permitted by us to complete the work which Mr. Dickens has left."

In a late number of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*, in speaking of the claims of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, you said that newspaper editors were "pestered" by the agents of that Eastern Magnificence with paragraphs and other productions intended to impress the British public with the grievousness of the wrongs he has sustained. I presumed, of course, that you "spoke by book," and I find by a letter in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the other day, that London editors are not the only victims of this system of "pestering." "A Simple Country Journalist" says:—"Nearly every post every day brings me one or more newspapers, pamphlets, or portions of newspapers and pamphlets, containing articles supporting the claims of an Indian Prince. The newspapers are from different parts of the country, and, as the articles referred to are marked, I presume I am expected to copy or refer to them in some way in the newspaper with which I have the honour to be connected. That this is so, is evident, because they are sometimes supplemented with a request to send a copy of the paper in which any notice is taken to a certain London address. Now, as a country journalist, I know nothing whatever of his Nabobship or of his claims; and I do not think it is fair that he, or some one acting in his behalf, should so pester me with his testimonials. I believe his case is to come before Parliament; and should his claims be discussed, there is no doubt the House will be told how they have been supported by the British press, which could not but be actuated by the most honourable and disinterested motives." I hope the respectable portion of the English press will not only refuse to lend themselves whatever "consideration" may be offered—to promote the doubtful claims of the Nawab, but will unflinchingly expose the nature of the measures taken by his agents to advance that individual's interests.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review* is the best number that has been issued for a long time. Mr. Mill upon "Professor Leslie on the Land Question" writes with more than ordinary *largesse* of thought and style. Mr. Frederic Harrison was hardly the person to review "Lothair," and his humour is, besides, that of a rhinoceros on stilts. Mr. A. B. Mitford commences the first of a series of "Tales of Old Japan," which promise to be of very great interest. Some little time ago, Mr. Editor, you showed me a letter of approval written by a correspondent who had been glad to see raised in another column the question of perfectly free legal culture. The doctrine of the article which had pleased him was that the *very utmost* the Legislature could have a right to do in relation to barristers and solicitors was to test by examination the knowledge of a person seeking to practise; but that it could have no possible concern with the manner in which he came by this knowledge. Mr. Walter Bagehot, in a characteristic essay, now maintains that precise view, and recapitulates and urges over again what has so often been said (and oftener thought) by sensible men concerning inns of court, barristers, and attorneys. Alas! it is all in "Pickwick." Mr. Bagehot would break down the barrier which divides the two branches of the profession. Who can forget Mr. Pickwick's desire to see Sergeant Snubbin, and the attorney's horror—I forget his name—at the bare idea? "See Sergeant Snubbin, my dear Sir!" the very hair of his head was on end at the notion. Yet Mr. Pickwick did see him, and we all remember Phiz's picture of the interview. Mr. Bagehot rightly complains that the greater part of our "working" law is judge-made law, a point which is not new to readers of this newspaper. "Have you got a case?" is the question, and a very absurd question it is. He mentions a most able judge who used to complain (of what everybody must see) that decisions are rarely given on principle. "That is the law," he would say; "I know it is the law; but the judges—drat 'em" (only that was not the precise phrase)—"won't have it so." I have had occasionally to consult lawyers, and have usually found I knew more about the matter in question than they did, and never that I knew less. George III. used to say, "I have had to consult the best lawyers in my dominions, and I never knew one of them that could do anything more than refer to books." Tennyson, I forget the exact words, somewhere calls English law "a wilderness of single instances," and it is a true description, because so few decisions are given upon principle. Mr. W. J. Brodribb's paper, "Pliny the Younger," is really very entertaining, and there are but few of us who will not have been instructed by his picture of the life of a Roman gentleman in the time of Trajan. By-the-by, Mr. Brodribb commits more than once the enormity of speaking of a ride in a carriage! Does he know his guilt? Why, not long ago, I saw an article by some superfluous jackass, who made it a "brand" of ignorance in a poor governess to speak of riding in a cab. But critics who cannot see that a word may have derived and figurative as well as direct etymological meanings ought to be expelled from the republic of letters. Mr. John Morley, the editor, translates Condorcet's "Plea for the Citizenship of Women," and contributes some able foot notes. He is, of course, quite right in saying that the question of the mental inferiority or equality of women does not decide that

citizenship; for, if it did, we should have to exclude men from the franchise. But, after all, he can deny that we are not bound by precedent, nor can deny that the question of competency has something to do with the question of voting. It is perfectly conceivable that the case is so—that there might be a class of human beings the equals or even the superiors of men who would be unfit for political power. It is also conceivable that women might exercise political influence in ways chosen by themselves which did not include the usual "vote." Why are we tied down to that? If four men and four women were present when a man had to be carried, the men would naturally lift him; would not follow that the women had nothing that they could do for him. Surely Mr. Morley must see that the question of political power is not a question of precedent. Politics—means merely the art of governing a city; and who can deny that there is not some portion of that art which belongs as naturally to woman as her share in governing the separate homes go to make a city? But, in the mean while, we have not yet reached that representative institutions exhaust the capabilities of men; and suppose it should turn out, upon careful thought and observation, that to give women votes would be the very way to retard their taking their true part in the management of cities? In the almost absurd form of the "Latter to the Ecumenical Council" Joseph Mazzini writes of the most magnificent manifestos he ever issued—perhaps the greatest. Take out of it the Lamenais dogma—with a stress on the "the" and millions will subscribe to every word of it. The *Contemporary* is also a good number. An especial word of welcome is due to Mr. R. H. Hutton, whom a great many will be glad to see in this excellent periodical. But he is not Mr. Arnold on St. Paul and His Creed" very much needed. Mr. Hutton of course discerns that, to use his own admirable phrase, the "assumptions" of Mr. Arnold's mind are inconsistent with the position of Churchmen and Dissenters. They believe in historical Christianity; but I cannot see that Mr. Hutton grips the question of the legitimacy of Dissent at the place where Mr. Arnold might be compelled to relinquish his hold. To say that Dissent is only justified by something morally wrong in an establishment is to take ground from which you may be dislodged with a word. For the distinction between moral and intellectual error, as related to practice, can never be made absolute. This is not a column of opinion; but, as a matter of criticism, the position of Dissent must be stated in opposition both to Mr. Hutton and to Mr. Arnold. A consistent Dissenter, then, affirms that the word nation, though there are realities which it serves to cover, is strictly an abstraction; that it is a fluctuating and mingled body; that its members vary indefinitely in religious opinion; that it is therefore impossible that it can have a religion, though individual members may have religious beliefs—in fact, that England has no more right to assume Christianity by law as against, say, a more Theist, than Spain has to assume Catholicism as against Protestantism, or Burnah Buddhism as against Christianity. In other words, the State must recognise and back up all creeds or none. I dare say Dissenters would be very glad to see a man of Mr. Hutton's calibre go about to answer this. Mr. Arnold is a mere juggler with words, who perfectly well knows he is "gammoning" his readers, and who, behind all his placidity, carries the instincts of a tyrant. He has written a greater number of cruel and unjust things than any living author, and has approached nearer to the worst forms of personal attack. I shall always remember the zest with which, at the time the Hyde Park railings were broken down, he quoted his father's words about rioters:—"Fling the leaders over the Tarpeian rock, and fling the rank and file." Mr. H. R. Hawis contributes a very striking dramatic interpretation of Mendelssohn's "Elijah;" and Mr. H. A. Page, a thoughtful essay on "Church Tendencies in Scotland," only I cannot follow him with as much assent as admiration. What on earth has "historic continuity" to do with the matter? I mean how can anybody's "fine sense of it" help? If it works, it must work like a cosmic force—unseen, unmeasured, fatal. For a man to take "historic continuity" into account in settling a question of right or wrong practice is mere scientific playing at Providence—a thing for Mr. Buckle to do, but oddly out of place in moral and religious questions. Mr. Alexander Strahan writes a comprehensive article on "Our Cheap Literature;" and I think his "inventory" of a certain illustration to "Roving Jack" is one of the most striking pieces of minute enumeration I ever read. The illustrations in *Good Words for the Young* are a wonder. There is nothing unfair in saying that no other magazine comes up to them.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Charles Reade is Mr. Charles Reade's worst enemy. He occasionally does such silly things that one is apt to forget he is, after all, a very clever man. I suppose sillier advertisements were never put out than in the case of the adaptation of *Mohère's "Le Malade Imaginaire,"* absurdly called "The Robust Invalid" at the Adelphi. It was positively sad to read all that rhodomontade about *Mohère* being forgotten, and the "error of judgment" which kept him off the stage for such a long time, and so on. However, "The Robust Invalid" might have been far worse. Mr. Reade has done his part of the work admirably. The translation is sharp and concise, and quite a treat after the wretched and turned out by ordinary Adelphi translators. And, to tell the truth, the scenes Mr. Reade has inserted are vigorous and extremely judicious. The comedy is played without change of scene and without lowering the curtain, and the night I was at the Adelphi "The Robust Invalid" not only went extremely well, but was thoroughly appreciated by pit and gallery. The *Tonnetto* of Mrs. Seymour was very clever acting. This is one of the best of the many "faithful and impertinent" servant's characters which *Mohère* wrote, and Mrs. Seymour appreciated the fun and did justice to the occasional bits of pathos. The little piece of *Woodlism* which is introduced at the end of the play (I mean the scene in which *Tonnetto* dresses up as a doctor, imitates his voice and style for a few minutes, and then, by a rapid change, comes back as the servant) was very fairly done, and I congratulate Mrs. Seymour on her return to the stage. But this lady is altogether a mystery. Her first appearance on the stage must have been in long clothes. I have known the stage—well, I will not say for how many years, but I have never seen or heard of Mrs. Seymour before, and I cannot find any record of this lady's first appearance in my "Era Almanack." Mr. George Vining, as Argan, was—as Mr. Vining always is—very painstaking, but very Vining. There is no earnestness in all Mr. Vining attempts which is most creditable, but a hardness of style mars much good intention. There was an attempt to get up an ovation for the little sister of Miss Kate Terry, who played the child. At present I see no cause for any hysterics whatever. She did not play the character with the artlessness and freshness of a child. It was like a child well taught. The style is suggestive of phenomena—that is to say, much well trained, not naturally clever children. Miss Florence Terry has also an unfortunate trick of opening her mouth and her eyes very wide, which gives her a silly and dazed appearance. The rest of the evening does not call for comment. The ladies were only amateurs, and the best of the gentlemen was Mr. Warboys. "Paul Pry" has been revived at the St. James's, where it has the advantage of burlesque and correct dressing. I don't admire John Poole's comedy at all. It is badly constructed, very wordy, and actually dull. Liston's marvellous acting in a ridiculous character no doubt made the play popular; but, as we have seen, Liston on the stage at present, it was hardly worth while to see such a stupid play. The dramatic honours on this evening were carried off not by Paul Pry, but by *Phœbe*, a *Madame Vestris*, recalling pleasant memories, no doubt, to old playgoers. Mrs. John Wood was the *Phœbe* on this occasion, and right well did she play the character. I had

no idea that Mrs. Wood had such a fund of fun at her fingers' ends. You see, I have only seen her play Miss Miggins, in "Burnaby Rudge," while to judge of the capabilities of an actress by burlesques would be cruel. But her *Phœbe* is capital. The lady possesses that rare art of saying funny things with a solemn face. It is humour of a very subtle and enjoyable kind, not appreciated by many, but delightful when understood. It is not rollicking and extravagant fun; but humour it undoubtedly is. I hope after this that Mrs. Wood will more frequently play in comedy, and be careful to select a character which will bring out the rare gift she possesses. I did not care much for Mr. Brough's Paul Pry. When he was quiet, and attempted much the same kind of dry humour I have attempted to describe, he was very good; but he reminded me so constantly of Mr. Toole that I am afraid he must have been imitating him. But when all is said and done, I really do not see much fun in the exaggerated caricature known as Paul Pry. A little of him goes a long way, and in the comedy to which he gives his name he is occasionally a great bore. Why Harry Stanley should be played by a girl I cannot imagine, although Miss Maggie Brennan is a very fair girl-boy, and played the kissing scene with wonderful spirit. Mr. W. Farren played the old man, Colonel Hardy, in the old-fashioned style; and Miss Kate Bishop is a fair ingénue; but I cannot say that, taken as a whole, the acting was specially good.

The German Reeds have now got the very best entertainment I have ever seen. "Our Island Home," by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, is most delightful fooling. It is, in fact, the best farce I know; better, in a certain sense, than "Box and Cox," because it is original. Mr. Gilbert is certainly the funniest and most original comic writer of the day. He has the quaintest of fancies, the drollest of conceits. What can be funnier than the notion of the German Reed company being thrown on a desert island, and Arthur Cecil becoming tyrannical because fortune has favoured him with the most verdant spot? He does not show his tyranny in a conventional manner, like other men; but, possessing the strange gift of an "evil eye" (it is a glass one), he compels Mrs. Reed to address him in blank verse; Mr. Reed, to throw rhymed couplets at his head; while Miss Holland may not open her mouth without bursting into a vocal recitative. But I have no space to tell the rare humour which flows through the whole thing. I cannot, however, help touching upon the talisman discovered by the ingenious Mrs. Reed to avoid the terrible influence of the glass eye. The tyrannical Cecil glares as usual, and hopes his victims will be cowed; but, at a signal from Mrs. Reed, all produce green spectacles, and the spell of the "malocchio" is broken. All this is rare fun; and I would advise an instant visit to the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, if anyone wants a downright good laugh. On the present occasion the whole company is at its best; and Mr. German Reed's music is far more ambitious and tuneful than he has hitherto attempted. It is not only pretty; it is occasionally extremely clever.

There is an excellent optical illusion now exhibiting at the AMPHITHEATRE in Holborn, called the "American Ethescope." It is the best version of the glass ghost effect I have seen. But, besides being clever, the entertainment is got up in a charming and fanciful manner.

Literature.

The Book of Orm—a Prelude to the Epic. By ROBERT BUCHANAN. London: Strahan and Co.

Everybody will regret that the state of Mr. Buchanan's health prevents his completing at present the scheme of which this volume is a hint—a large, powerful, and beautiful hint, and one that is sufficiently illuminatory for readers of a certain class, but still scarcely even a hint for the majority of the public, and leaving some work for the most apprehensive lovers of mystical poetry. In these striking—often startling—poems, there is plenty to enjoy; but we want more, and it is to be hoped we shall before long have the remainder of the design before us. In the mean while, it is little to the credit of the "Saxon" that this appeal, in the name of the mysticism of the "Celt," to his apprehensiveness has met, here and there, with so very dull a reception. People should really remember that their own understandings and sensibilities are not necessarily the measure of all that may profitably or beautifully be said or sung, and that when a man who is otherwise sane says something which appears to them meaningless, it may be their own want of sensibility which is in fault. There is a class of perceptions and emotions which exists in a greater or less degree in every human mind: though some people are faintly conscious of them, others barely at all. These perceptions and emotions are naturally busied with the inscrutable things of life and their symbols in nature, and are perpetually striving in minds oppressed by them to become more and more articulate; but wholly articulate they never can become. They try hard in music, poetry, and the other arts; but we are never satisfied with what they say for us, unless they make us feel that there is something more which they cannot say. The borderland in which what can be definitely put shades off into what cannot is the realm of mystery. In that realm birth, death, corruption, beauty, love, hate, sin, God; life, past, present, and to come; stars, clouds, seas, mountains, winds, flowers, and running waters, lightnings, sunshine, and darkness become related. Night is deathly; the brook is peaceful and glad; the breath of the flower is tender; the hills are mighty; the winds have voices; and the stars are the eyes of God. To expect poetry which is conversant with this realm of mystery to read like Sir Walter Scott, or Byron's story-poems, or Crabbe, or Chaucer, is as absurd as to go to the binomial theorem for spiritual consolation. Nor is it less so to expect such poetry to yield all its meaning at one glance. It was not intended to be plain and straightforward. It was designed expressly to affect the mind through the medium of certain special sensibilities.

Now, some of the criticism to which these poems of Mr. Buchanan have been submitted is as ridiculous as would be a complaint that an Arabian harp uttered nothing intelligible. But let us look at a poem or two out of this book. Take the

FLOWER OF THE WORLD.

Wherever men sinned and wept,
I wandered in my quest;
At last in a Garden of God
I saw the Flower of the World.

This Flower had human eyes,
Its breath was the breath of the mouth;
Sunlight and a starlight came,
And the Flower drank bliss from both.

Whatever was base and unclean,
Whatever was evil and strange,
Was piled around its roots;
It drew its strength from the same.

Whatever was formless and base
Passed into fineness and form;
Whatever was lifeless and mean
Grew into beautiful bloom.

Then I thought, "O Flower of the World!
Miraculous Blossom of things,
Light as a faint wreath of snow
Thou tremblest to fall in the wind.

"O beautiful Flower of the World,
Fall not nor wither away;
He is coming—He cannot be far—
The Lord of the Flowers and the Stars."

And I cried, "O Spirit divine!
That walkest the garden unseen,
Come hither and bless, ere it dies,
Thy beautiful Flower of the World."

Quoted by itself, or read inattentively, this poem may prove almost as devoid of articulate meaning as one of Mendelssohn's Songs

Without Words; but there is something wanting in the structure of the mind which it does not instantly affect. Now let us take two sonnets. First:—

GOD IS BEAUTIFUL.

O Thou art beautiful! and thou dost bestow
Thy beauty on this stillness—still as sheep
The hills lie under Thee; the waters deep
Murmur for joy of Thee; the voi is below
Mirror Thy strange fair vapours as they flow!
And now, afar upon the a-shen height,
Thou sendest down a radiant look of light,
So that the still peaks glisten, and a glow
Rose colour'd tints the little snowy cloud
That poises on the highest peak of all.
O Thou art beautiful!—the hills are bowed
Beneath Thee; on Thy name the soft winds call
The monstrous ocean trumpets it aloud,
The rains and snows intone it as they fall.

Then—

THE MOTION OF THE MISTS.

Here by the sunless lake there is no air,
Yet with how ceaseless motion, with how strange
Flowing and fading, do the high mists range
The gloomy zerges of the mountain bare!
Some weary breathing never ceases there,—
The a-shen peaks can feel it hour by hour;
The purple depths are darkened by its power;
A soulless breath, a trouble all things share;
That feel it come and go. See! onward swim
The ghostly mists, from silent land to land,
From gulf to gulf; now the whole air grows dim—
Like living men, darkling a space, they stand,
But lo! a sunbeam, like a Cherubin,
Scatters them onward with a flaming brand.

Here we have utterance much more definite, though the colouring is still highly mystical, and God is at once in the world and above the world in the first sonnet; and in the second conscious life fluctuates between the soul and what it sees. Several of the poems are much less intelligible; and the merit is, of course, not equally distributed. But we think some of the work is, of its kind, as high as any the world has yet seen. Mr. Buchanan is aware, and frankly confesses, that there may be touches here and there of what is morbid; and there are. But our object is chiefly to call careful attention to a volume of poetry which, with some faults, is almost surcharged with beauty and significance, wonderfully fine in workmanship, and entitled to the serious study of readers who really care for poetry.

BOOKS ON GARDENING.

It is not a little odd, but our experience and observation have forced upon us the conviction that "literary gardeners" are rarely as successful in wielding the pen as it is to be presumed they are in handling the rake. A book on floriculture seldom tells an amateur much that he can understand, that he can conveniently practise, or that will be of special use to him if he does. The instruction imparted is generally best suited for professional gardeners, who, if they understand their business at all, ought not to need it. To the mere amateur it is "caviare" entirely; being either too elementary or too learned—the happy mean that would suit his case being ordinarily missed, and the information sought to be conveyed being smothered in such a wealth of words, technical or rhetorical, that he is simply bewildered. We suppose it is a sense of these facts that has prompted the compiler of *Beeton's Garden Management and Rural Economy* (Ward, Lock, and Tyler), the first part of which has just appeared, to undertake the task he has set himself; a task in which, we fear, he will fail in accomplishing all he aims at. In fact, he aims at too much; his work is on too elaborate a scale, and will prove, we suspect, beyond the compass of both professional and amateur gardeners. It is to be completed in twelve monthly parts, each part containing sixty-four pages of small-print letterpress, besides numerous illustrations. It will thus run to about 800 pages in all; surely too much for most men, with limited time and opportunities, to master. Those, however, who do master its contents—if there be any such—will be amply rewarded, for it is at once elaborate and exhaustive, theoretical and practical, minute in detail and replete with generalisations. Indeed, a very learned work; but, in our humble judgment, something more simple would have been more useful.

Another book on floriculture, of which we have just received a copy, is Mr. Andrew Meikle's *Window Gardening for Town and Country* (London: Routledge and Sons), which, although not by any means so pretentious as most gardeners' books, really contains many useful hints; the effect, however, being occasionally spoiled by too much technicality, too frequent repetitions of learned names for simple things (such as common field ferns, for instance) and a decided tendency to "drop into poetry." This tendency, by-the-by, is an ordinary feature, we observe, of books on gardening which are not strictly and dryly (oh! how dry!) technical: we suppose because the authors fancy that ornate language is specially appropriate in connection with flowers; and so, perhaps, it is, provided the poetical flights be not overdone. Mr. Meikle half apologises for "plainness of language," while affecting to deem apology unnecessary; and adds, "in speaking of flowers, one can hardly help rising to a somewhat higher level." True; but the rise is occasionally a little too high, and becomes fantastic: a fault from which, however, we are bound to say that Mr. Meikle is freer than most of his brethren who affect letters. A graver objection to Mr. Meikle's book is this—that, while "compiled chiefly for the use of the working classes," it is written specially to recommend a window or miniature greenhouse that costs about £2 sterling; as if the "working classes" generally were so flush of cash as to be able to afford that sum for a case in which to grow "a few flowers." Mr. Meikle's directions are all very well, and must be useful where they can be followed; but we submit that he would have done "the working classes" better service had he been less ambitious for them, and confined his efforts to giving them some simple directions for rearing flowers in pots and boxes, rather than in greenhouses, miniature or otherwise. A few such directions—too few, however—he does give; and here is one of the best: when growing flowers at a widow, be careful to turn them round from time to time, so that all sides may have a peep at the light; otherwise the blooms will all grow towards the outside, and leave nothing but bare limbs for the contemplation of the cultivator within. Perhaps we have been a little hypercritical on Mr. Meikle, for really his little book is one of the most useful, because most practical, on flower-growing we have met with.

The Garden Oracle and Floricultural Year Book, edited by Mr. Shirley Hibberd (London: Groombridge and Sons), the issue of which for 1870 we should have noticed ere this, is chiefly valuable from containing lists of all the new flowers, and new varieties for the season; and consequently addresses itself mainly to professionals, and to wealthy amateurs who can afford (and are willing) to pay for novelties because they are novelties. To such parties it must be a valuable guide; and the "Calendar of Garden Work" cannot fail to be of service to all who can methodically attend to the directions given. But, in truth, gardening, like most other things, cannot be effectually learned from books; skill therein must be acquired by experience—the best of all teachers.

THE PEERS AND THE IRISH LAND BILL.—Sixteen peers have placed on record their protest against the second reading of the Irish Land Bill. They object to the measure because some of its provisions are opposed to the just rights of property, and are admitted by its advocates to be unfit for England and Scotland, and to be only justified in Ireland on account of the existing relations between landlord and tenant in some parts of that country, which they consider exceptional; because it is proposed that these provisions, instead of being imposed for a limited period, are to be enacted permanently, and thereby appear to be established as principles which ought to exist by law at all times between landlord and tenant; and because this enactment as principles is likely to lead to agitation for the extension of similar provisions to England and Scotland. The Dukes of Manchester, the Earl of Malmesbury, and Lord Redesdale are among the dissentients.

the community in times of peace as he is in times of war. Our Engraving is from a photograph by Messrs. Sheppard and Bourne.

THE GREAT FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The *Levant Times*, which has a very full account of the catastrophe, says that the day will go down to all time as the most disastrous ever experienced by the Frank inhabitants of the Turkish capital. The origin

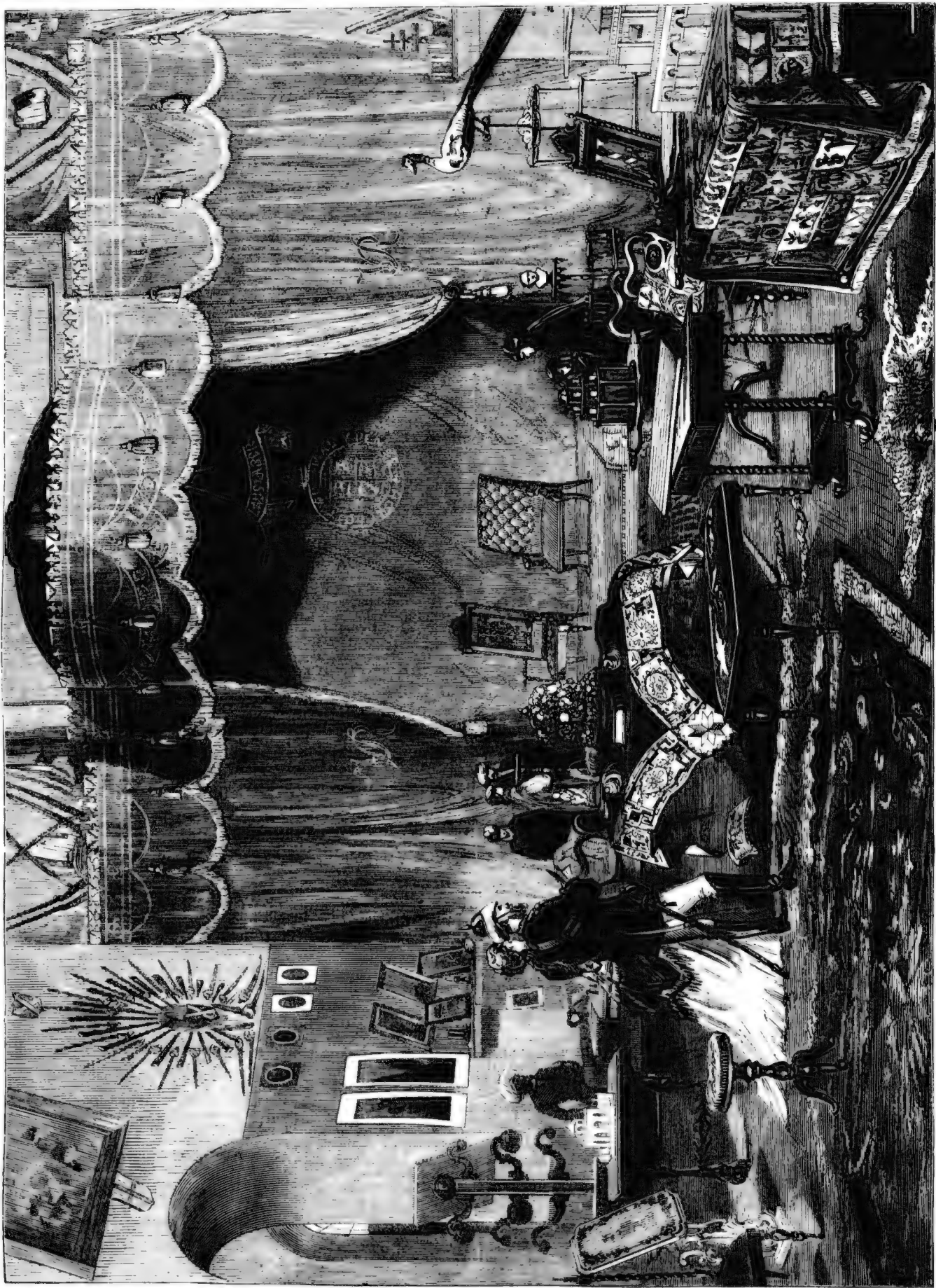
SOLDIERS' INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS IN INDIA.
One of the most pleasing incidents in Prince Alfred's late visit to India was the opening of the Soldiers' Industrial Exhibition at Meeran Meer, Lahore, in the Punjab. In 1861 Sir Hugh Rose, now Lord Strathmore, who was then Commander-in-Chief of the army in India, laid before the Government plans for the establishment of workshops for all regiments on Indian service. The climate of India makes it necessary that so many of the British race should have many hours of leisure from military duty in the heat of the day. This enforced idleness has been found injurious to their bodily health and moral welfare. It was therefore proposed to afford them opportunities of useful and agreeable occupation for their spare hours, in various branches of art and manufacture, and to stimulate their industry by public exhibitions and prizes. The Governor-General and Council of India heartily approved of this scheme. It was decided, in 1865, to hold an annual exhibition of soldiers' work alternately in the northern and southern divisions of India. The first exhibition took place at Meeran Meer in 1865; and the others have been at Allahabad, Lucknow, and again at Meeran Meer. The results have been very successful; and Sir William Mansfield, who succeeded Lord Strathmore as Commander-in-Chief, has continued his efforts to carry on the undertaking. Those among the soldiers who are skilled artisans have found profitable employment, while many of their comrades have learnt trades by which they may be able to earn their livelihood when they quit the military service. Their wives and families have shared the benefits of the system, and have, in many instances, contributed to the exhibitions.

The Meeran Meer Exhibition of this year, opened by his Royal Highness on Feb. 11, was not limited, as before, to the regiments at the neighbouring stations, but extended to the whole of India. It was managed by a central committee, over which Major-General D. Rainier presided. Nearly 2500 articles were sent in, and the prizes, of which there were more than three hundred, of the aggregate value of £1000, invited competition in a great variety of works. Preparations were made for the opening day. The central transept of the building was decorated with flags and shields bearing the emblems of the regiments, and with trophies of arms. Here also were placed the pictures sent in for competition for the prizes given by Lord Mayo for the two best paintings in oil and in water colours. The first prize was taken by Captain Frank James, of the Bombay Staff Corps; and the second by Private Witte, of the 109th Regiment.

The Duke of Edinburgh, when he arrived at the building, was accompanied by Sir Donald McLeod, member of the Punjab Government. They were received, under a Royal salute, at the garden entrance to the exhibition by General Hayshe, Royal Artillery (on behalf of General Rainier, who was prevented by indisposition), with the members of the general committee. A procession marched to the transept, where the principal residents of the Punjab were assembled. An appropriate address was delivered to his Royal Highness by General Hayshe, and the Prince made a suitable reply. He observed that he, as a sailor, felt a warm interest in the welfare of the soldier. So did the Queen, his mother; and he regarded this exhibition as a happy result of the system commenced by his father in 1861.

The secretary to the committee, Quartermaster F. L. Tucker, R.A., was presented to his Royal Highness. The Prince was then conducted through the exhibition, returning to deliver the prize certificates to those to whom they had been awarded. The non-commissioned officers and soldiers were much gratified at receiving these direct from his Royal Highness, and speaking kindly to all the soldier exhibitors; and then took his departure, amid the hearty cheers of the soldiers assembled. The success of the exhibition is decided, and shows that it had been organised with good management. The articles exhibited comprised furniture of all descriptions, ironwork, needlework, and a great diversity of productions. The soldier may thus learn how to become as valuable to

the extraordinary spread of the fire. The flames, instead of rising vertically, were blown horizontally, and attacked buildings apparently a long way out of reach. No kind—not stone nor iron, still less wood dry as tinder—could resist these fiery blasts. Iron shutters were red hot; iron grinders and bars were twisted in all manner of shapes; and the glass in the houses was all run into solid masses. Nothing affords a more striking illustration of the terrific character of the fire than the destruction of the British Embassy, a massive stone structure, in the



SOLDIERS' INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT MEERAN MEER, LAHORE, INDIA.

of the fire is now ascertained. A woman had sent her child up stairs to bring down a "mangal"—an open vessel containing lighted charcoal, for the purpose of cooking. The mangal fell on the stairs, a window curtain caught fire, and as the window was open and there was a strong wind blowing, the flames soon spread. Unfortunately the house was of wood, and the street in which it was situated was very narrow, and the other houses were also of wood. In a very short time the whole neighbourhood was in flames. The combustible nature of the dwellings that first caught, combined with the rushing wind which carried large fragments of burning matter an incredible distance, caused

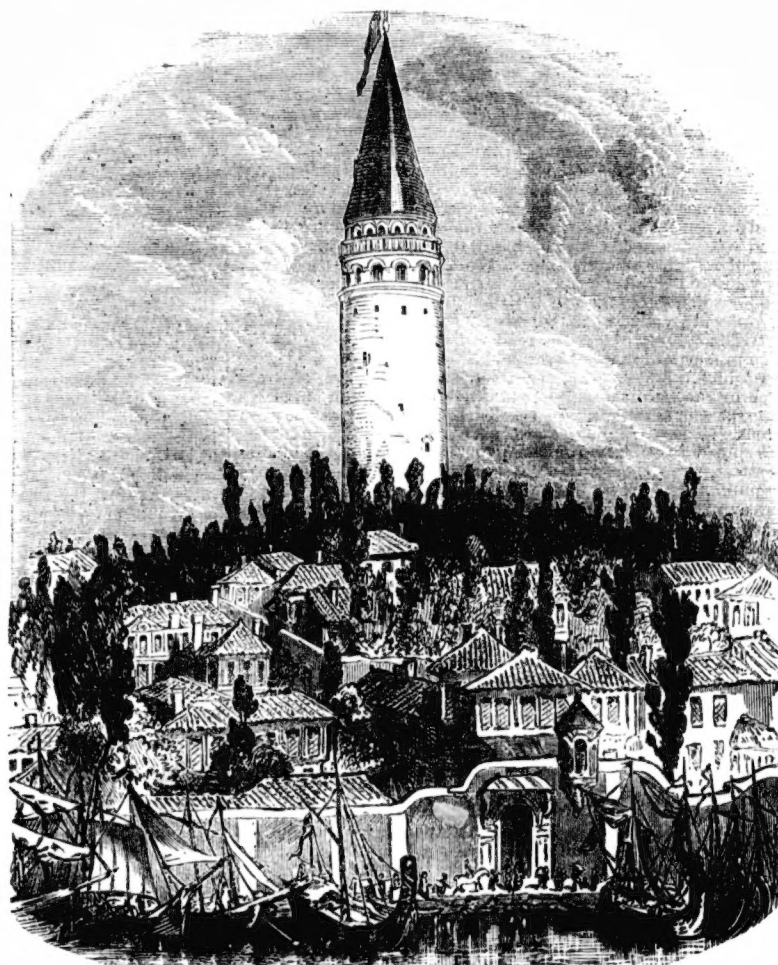
midst of a spacious garden surrounded by lofty walls and provided with fire-engines and an abundant supply of water. Five thousand lives which were to have been spent in public fêtes have been given, by order of the Sultan, to the sufferers by the late fire; and the fêtes which were to celebrate his Majesty's accession to the throne have been countermanded. The correspondent of the *Post*, writing on the 8th, gives the following account of this great disaster:—"The upper part of the main street of Pera forms a square, or open spot, called the Taxim, and runs in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction for about one mile, where,

at an angle still to the south-west, it continues on for some length and merges into the quarter of Galata. In the latter direction, and at the end of the first mile, stands the palatial building of Galata Serai, formerly barracks, now an Imperial college for boys of all denominations. The Grande Rue de Pera runs its length from Taxim, the summit of Galata hill, on the comparatively level top of the eminence on which the Frank quarters of Constantinople are built. Immediately on the sides north and south of the main street commence the steep declivities of various formations of hills and gullies, which lead in the latter direction to the shores of the Bosphorus and in the former over hills and valleys of a wider extent, and of a still more tortuous nature, to the Golden Horn and neighbourhood of the 'Sweet Waters.' Except in the immediate vicinity of the Grande Rue and in Galata, the entirety of these acres of hill and dale land are crowded in thick disorder by the thousands of wooden buildings that make up 'Constantinople.' (I am not now speaking of Stamboul proper.) The various ramifications of these steeply-ranged all the more painful by the disgraceful paving of the streets, present vast difficulties in the way of rapid assistance in arriving at a given spot in time of conflagration. The Grande Rue de Pera itself is, let me state once and for all, paved in precisely the same manner as the yards of our mews in London, only infinitely worse. The supply of water about the city is abundant, however, and it only needs a properly-organised system in its use to ensure success in aiding at the extinction of fire. The fire of Sunday, June 5, first broke out in a wooden quarter below Taxim, at the head of Pera, about three o'clock in the afternoon. The alarm was given in the usual way, and no one thought at first anything more of the matter than is ordinarily the case when one sees the inevitable fate of a handful of wooden houses. Soon, however, came the conviction that a conflagration of no small importance was destined to sweep the quarter. A breeze from the north-east, almost amounting to a quarter gale, spread the flames with such fearful rapidity that not alone did it become, as in general, a matter of anxiety to save property and furniture, but general confusion rendered the probable loss of human life imminent. Such assistance as is procurable from the native 'Touloumbages' was, of course, immediately forthcoming; but the weak little hand-pumps, which four men carry on their shoulders while they mount the hilly streets at the top of their speed, were next to useless, though the Bashli-Bazook kind of corps certainly worked away with will and pluck. Yet untouched buildings were played upon, and in places houses were torn down to form gaps intended to arrest the progress of the flames, but all to little purpose; the high wind carried the fragile materials of flaring wooden houses in clouds of sparks and flying fragments from house to house, and in instances across open wide spaces looked upon as safeguards. So did this vast sheet of flame roll on till by six o'clock in the evening it had already left the upper mile of the Grande Rue, already spoken of, one general scene of flame and ruin, from which, at any approachable spot, might be seen a large portion of the wood-built quarter on the south flying into empty space in the form of sparks, while street and gardens on the northern side were being consumed with equal rapidity. It was at about this time that the fire had reached the guard-house at the gate of Galata Serai on the one side; and on the other so encompassed the British Embassy gardens that their trees caught fire, the sparks from which, joining those that flew over the high wall from the wooden street at the side, rested in red hot masses on the roof of the palace. Assistance in the shape of nearly the whole crew of men and marines from her Majesty's ship Antelope, was at once forthcoming; but in almost less time than it takes to relate the fact the fire had 'taken' a hold, and the labour of attempting to save the building soon proved useless. When the architect of this building built the palace, he so constructed it as to make it almost impregnable to fire. The roof—where in this instance it caught fire—was the only weak point he considered open to attack, and that even was constructed double, the under

THE LATE DISASTROUS FIRE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

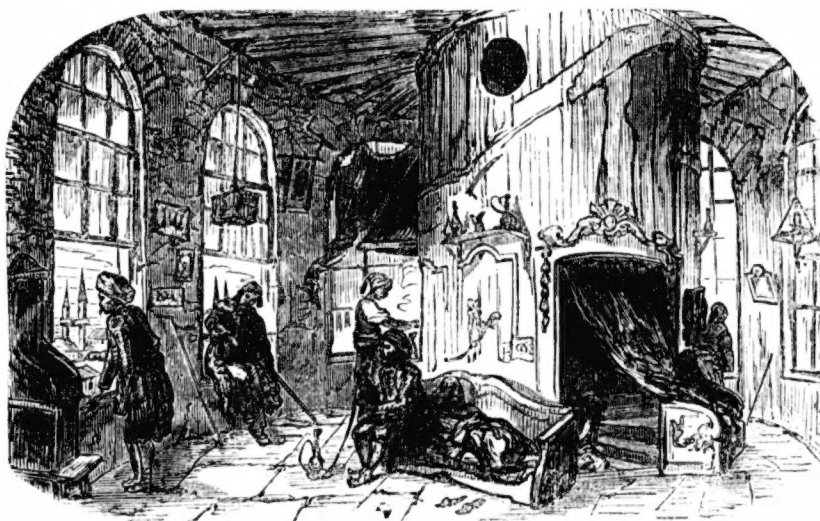


THE SERASKERIE (WAR-OFFICE).



TOWER IN GALATA.

roof being covered with zinc, and the upper, or outer one, with slabs of slate as thick and large as small marble tables. The building was provided with two good hand-working engines and hose, while a third was situated as a fixture between these double roofs for the purpose of playing on the top and in the interior of the building. The bluejackets were in the upper stories and on the roof as soon as they arrived at the scene; but it was found that the engine was 'out of repair,' and practically useless in the emergency, while the two others in the garden were both found not powerful enough to throw jets to the top of the building, and also not in the best state of preservation. So quickly did the flames do their work here that half an hour sufficed for nearly the entire gutting of the palace. Sir Henry Elliot remained with the secretaries on the spot till advice and direction were no longer of avail, while the sailors and many of the officers of the Antelope worked as it is wholly unnecessary to say how Englishmen will. In the short half hour, or little more, some sixteen or seventeen chests of plate were rescued, a great part of the library, happily all the archives, and a mass of furniture. I am happy to say that the valuable collection of Oriental manuscripts belonging to Mr. Hughes, Oriental secretary, but in England, were saved. The private losses of the Ambassador, Mr. Barron,



INTERIOR OF A HOUSE IN PERA.

and Count Pisania are very great. At about half-past eleven o'clock the wind lulled and somewhat changed its direction, so that the flames failed to leap the space of the gardens at the Embassy, as also an open square of small extent in front of Galata Serai; had this not been the case, it is almost a certainty that, instead of half, the whole of Pera must have been burnt down. While in this way, however, the fire was checked at this point, it still raged amongst the wooden quarters away to the north, and consumed thousands of houses in the direction stretching to the Golden Horn. The scene of ruin in the main street and its vicinity is in all conscience appalling enough—half the finest houses and public buildings of Pera gone; but the spectacle that meets the eye on turning more especially to the north is simply too distressing. A vast forest of brick chimney-stacks mark the site of thousands of wooden houses where so many families, in the space of a few hours, lost their all. Confusion and panic in the midst of such a vast and rapid conflagration caused many more deaths than was at first imagined. Incidents of the most painful description have not been wanting. Whole families have been found, the members locked in each other's death embrace. Some few have been removed from the cellars of their houses, still groaning in life, but only to expire on exposure to the air. On the evening of the fire the Sultan



HOUSES IN THE QUARTER DESTROYED.

rode up from his palace to the scene of disaster, but his Majesty's approach was cut off at the Taxim by the showers of sparks and the heat. Next morning his Majesty in person superintended the turning out of the troops from some large artillery barracks just beyond the Taxim to make room for distressed families, and also ordered some 2000 tents to be immediately pitched in the parade-grounds adjoining. Here were located some thousands of burnt-out poor people, who received their daily rations of rice, bread, oil, and meat at his Majesty's expense. The Sultan has also issued strict orders to the imams, or priests of the Mussulman quarters, to in no way hinder the letting of houses to distressed Christians. Numbers of British subjects and Maltese sufferers have received immediate relief from the British Consulate, Sir Patrick Francis acting with energy and decision in this moment of calamity.

Constantinople is celebrated for conflagrations such as this; but they rarely occur in the Christian quarter of the city. Ten years ago the French convent of St. Benoit was burned, and more than a hundred persons perished; but on that occasion the fire was of limited extent, and the loss of life was due to the unexpected falling of a high wall on the crowd beneath. We must look back forty years to find a calamity similar to the present one. In 1831 a conflagration broke out in a house near the great burying-ground, and extended until the greater portion of Pera perished. Eighty thousand people were rendered homeless, and of all the foreign missions only the Austrian Embassy escaped. The stone houses which were then erected to replace the wooden ones destroyed by the fire have since that time given Pera an immunity from great conflagrations. In the Turkish quarters it has been different. There the houses are, as a rule, of wood, and the flames spread so rapidly from one to another that street kindles after street, and the only possible means of arresting their progress is by pulling down the houses until a gap is made which the fire cannot overleap. A great hole in one quarter of Stamboul chronicles one conflagration, and the desolate promontory covered with ruins from the Seraglio Palace to the tomb of Sultan Mahmoud tells of the fearful effects of another. Even on the Pera side of the Horn the Casim Pacha quarter has been burnt, and the wooden houses of Besiktash and the Galata shore were destroyed by fire only a year ago; but until now the flames have not for forty years taken a firm hold of the stone-built houses of the Franks. The foreign residents of Constantinople have lived in fancied security, and have not troubled themselves when the howl of the fire-watcher broke on the night, as he swept through the streets, dogspear in hand, to call out the firemen, the soldiery, and the water-carriers. They have been accustomed to the rush and the shouts of the half-naked firemen as they dashed along, staggering under the weight of their paltry portable fire-engines; they have listened with quiet indifference to the soberer tramp of the *sakajees*, toiling on under full water-skins, and their chief care has been to escape the hoofs of the horse patrols as they caracolled on towards the Bridge of Stamboul. Sometimes, indeed, in these forty years their curiosity has been aroused when the glare of the conflagration blotted out the stars and paled the moon in the clear Eastern sky. Then they have thronged out from their favourite cafés and have crowded the broad road leading to the British Embassy, whence they could best watch the progress of the flames. But of all the sight-seers not one ever dreamed that the solid and imposing palace under whose shadow they stood would ever be burnt or that the fairest portion of their darling Grande Rue would be laid in ashes in a single summer's afternoon. No less than 2000 persons are said to have perished in the flames.

OBITUARY.

PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE.—A telegram from New York announces the death of Jerome Bonaparte, at Baltimore, on Friday week. Prince Jerome Bonaparte, the youngest brother of Napoleon I., and at one time King of Westphalia, married at New York, in 1803, a young American lady named Patterson. The deceased was their only child, and was born in the environs of London, on July 7, 1805. Napoleon I., being annoyed at this marriage, which was contracted without his consent, declared it null and void, and Jerome Bonaparte was afterwards united to Princess Frederika, of Wurtemberg. Prince Napoleon and Princess Mathilde are the issue of this second marriage. The first marriage was the subject of some proceedings in the French courts a few years since, when an attempt was made to establish its validity by the son of the Jerome Bonaparte who has just died. The attempt was, however, unsuccessful.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL E. H. D. ELMERS NAPIER.—We have to announce the death, on the 19th inst., of Lieutenant-General Edward Hungerford Delaval Elmers Napier, Colonel of the 46th Regiment. Since he entered the service as Ensign, in 1825, General Napier, like many others of the same name, had distinguished himself during his military career. The following epitome of his services we take from Hart:—"Lieutenant-General Elmers Napier was present with the Nizam's subsidiary force at the investment of Hyderabad, in 1830. Served on the British Staff in the Syrian campaign of 1840-1, with the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General; held a responsible and independent command of an irregular force in the Naplouse Mountains; afterwards employed as commissioner with a portion of the Turkish army (brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel, Syrian medal, and gold medal from the Sultan). He was subsequently employed on diplomatic missions by Lord Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston—first to bring back from the interior of Africa the chiefs of Mount Lebanon, who had been seized by Ibrahim Pacha, and sent by Mehemet Ali to work in the mines of Sennar; and, secondly, to convey back to Beyrout several thousand Syrian soldiers who, contrary to the terms of the convention, had been retained in Egypt. He was successful in the accomplishment of both these missions. He was employed on the Staff, with the rank of Assistant Adjutant-General, in the Kaffir War of 1846-7, during which he was in charge of native levies and irregular troops attached to the 1st Division, and organised a body of irregular horse, the nucleus of what subsequently became the Kaffir Mounted Police." The late General Napier's commissions bore date as follows:—Ensign, Aug. 11, 1825; Lieutenant, Oct. 11, 1826; Captain, Jan. 21, 1831; Major, Oct. 11, 1839 (the two latter commissions being by purchase); Lieutenant-Colonel, Dec. 31, 1841; Colonel, June 20, 1854; Major-General, Oct. 26, 1858; and Lieutenant-General, May 6, 1866. He was appointed Colonel of the 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot in October, 1864, and was transferred as Colonel of the 46th in February of the present year.

MR. D. D. KEANE, Q.C.—The death is announced of Mr. D. D. Keane, Q.C., of the Common Law Bar. Mr. Keane was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple on June 12, 1835, and subsequently joined the Norfolk Circuit. He was Recorder of Bedford, and for several years he had acted as one of the examiners appointed to conduct the preliminary examinations of candidates for the Bar. The learned gentleman was early in life a Parliamentary reporter, and also for many years acted as reporter in the Court of Queen's Bench for one of the leading law journals. His health had been declining for some time past.

MR. ROBERT MARTINEAU.—Mr. Robert Martineau, brother of the Rev. James Martineau and Miss Harriet Martineau, died, on Friday week, at Birmingham, in his seventy-second year. He was born at Norwich of a Huguenot family, which settled there on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and has ever since been represented in that city. Mr. Martineau settled in Birmingham as a manufacturer at an early period of his life, and took an active part in the Reform agitation preceding the bill of 1832. For the last fourteen years he has lived in retirement, owing to an almost total deprivation of sight.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1871.—Her Majesty's Commissioners have resolved to set aside one guinea out of every season ticket sold at three guineas through the Society of Arts for the purchase of works of art and industry out of the exhibition, the same to be circulated throughout the United Kingdom.

MUSIC.

THE pressure upon our music space this week must be an excuse for passing lightly over what we should dwell upon. Some of the operatic doings, however, may be even better treated subsequently than now—we refer especially to the revival of "Otello" at Drury Lane, in which Mdle. Nilsson appears as Desdemona. The fair Swede made a great success with her first essay on Tuesday night, being recalled and applauded to her heart's content. That she will do even better to-night, when "Otello" is to be repeated, we have not the smallest doubt; this is certain, at any rate—that we shall be better qualified after a second hearing to pronounce upon her efforts. Signor Mengini plays Otello with the rough vigour habitual to him. M. Faure is a good Iago, Signor Gardoni a good Roderigo, and Signor Foli a deep-voiced Brabantio. On Thursday the "Huguenots" was given, and Madame Barbot made her debut. Our notice of this must also be reserved.

All through the present week at Covent Garden there have been nothing but repetition performances, concerning which there is nothing new to be said. Signor Campana's "Esmeralda" has appeared in the bills twice; but, looking at its almost unanimous condemnation by the press, the work can have but a short life at the best.

Among the chief concerts of the week is that given by Herr Ganz in St. James's Hall, on Monday, when Madame Adelina Patti, Madame Monbelli, Madame Trebelli-Bettini, and many other distinguished artists appeared. The programme was, as usual, very long, and contained little of any special interest. On such occasions people like to hear their old favourites, and the critic's place is a sinecure. Madame Rudersdorff gave her concert, on Tuesday, at the house of Mrs. Washington Hibbert, in Dover-street, whereat some of her promising pupils sang very acceptably. A selection of artists from the Drury-Lane Opera lent their aid, and a very enjoyable entertainment was the result. Mr. Benedict's great concert—the concert of concerts as regards length, number of artists, and general attractiveness—took place in St. James's Hall on Wednesday. Beginning at 1.30 p.m., it lasted till the day was very far advanced. What was done, and who did it, would take all our space to tell, and we must be content to say that "everybody and everything" were there. Certain novelties in the programme, however, deserve a word of mention, which we must give them next week.

NEW MUSIC.

Dora. An Irish Ballad. Written by C. J. Rowe; Composed by GEORGE BARKER. London: Chappell and Co.

The words of this ballad, addressed by "Dora" to her unreasonable lover, are characteristic and pleasing. As regards the music, it was to be expected that so veteran a song writer as Mr. Barker would achieve an attractive tune. He has done so by use of the simplest means, and "Dora" may be pronounced a success of its kind. The key is F; the melody lying mainly within the octave.

The Weaver. Ballad. Written by Emily Judson; Composed by KATE LUCY WARD. London: Duncan Davison and Co.

In this song the weaver is by no means the industrious mechanic who devotes his energies to textile fabrics, but rather a metaphorical personage who weaves with pain and tears the web of human lives. The scope of Miss Ward's piece is, therefore, somewhat ambitious, and she must be congratulated on having, to a great extent, succeeded in her task. We should be sorry to pin our faith to every progression in the music, or to accept many as the best possible; but, on the whole, the song has merits sufficient to secure a welcome. It has recently been sung at various concerts by Miss Julia Elton. The key is C minor; compass adapted for contralto or bass voice.

Good-Night! No. 1 of "A Winter Journey." Composed by SCHUBERT. London: Chappell and Co.

This song, as now published, forms No. 22 of the "Repertoire of the Monday Popular Concerts;" and we need not say that at the concerts themselves it is a chief favourite. It can hardly be necessary to criticise music so well known, and our task is done when we direct attention to the reissue before us. The time, we hope, will soon come when Schubert's delightful songs will everywhere be household favourites. In such a case, their influence upon popular taste will be of the very highest value.

When the Days Draw In Again. Autumn Song. Composed by SAMUEL REAY. London: Chappell and Co.

The ceaseless march of time has taken us past the longest day, and the song above named will speedily have the attraction of being in season. But at any period of the year it might be sung with extreme pleasure, such is the charm of its words and music. Mr. Reay is well and favourably known by his part-song "The Dawn of Day," and any music from his pen is expected to be good. Expectation is fully satisfied in the present instance. Both melody and accompaniment are full of exquisite simplicity and expressiveness, while both are written with the ease and precision of one who thoroughly knows his business. It is not often we can commend a song so unreservedly as we do "When the Days Draw In Again." The key is E flat; compass, nine notes.

Ireland: Grand Fantasia on Irish Melodies. Composed by BRINLEY RICHARDS. London: Chappell and Co.

The melodies chosen by Mr. Richards to be treated in his peculiar style are "The Last Rose of Summer" and "St. Patrick's Day." If anybody wants these beautiful national tunes decorated almost beyond possibility of recognition he can now obtain them. Our tastes are more simple; besides, we adhere to the belief that beauty when unadorned is adorned the most.

Mozart's Fandango from "Le Nozze di Figaro." Arranged for the Pianoforte from the score by DR. FERDINAND RAHLES. London: C. Lonsdale.

Thanks, Dr. Ferdinand Rahles. You have placed within reach of amateur pianists one of the most charming little dances Mozart ever wrote; one, moreover, that has suffered undeserved neglect by being excised from the opera at our lyric theatres till the present season. It is now restored at Drury Lane and also at Covent Garden, with what effect those who remember Figaro's marriage fête need not telling. Dr. Rahles has arranged the music in a manner at once effective and simple.

Breaking the Spell. Opera Bouffé. By OFFENBACH. London: Metzler and Co.

This work, as now issued, forms one of an opera-bouffé series in course of publication by Messrs. Metzler and Co., at prices ridiculously cheap. The English libretto, by Mr. H. Farnie, is spirited, full of point, and well written; and the music is unmistakably Offenbachian in its style—that is to say, light, piquant, and pretty. Only three characters appear, the plot is simplicity itself, and the *mise en scène* needs little preparation; for all which reasons "Breaking the Spell" is likely to be a favourite where amateur performances are in vogue.

Lay Me Beneath the Grass. Song by E. D. Cross; Music by Mrs. J. HOLMAN ANDREWS. London: Boosey and Co.

We suppose there are people who would make choice of a song beginning with such a lugubrious request as this, or Mrs. Andrews's work would never have been printed. Without professing to understand their taste, we may assure them that the music is appropriately mournful in its character, though not without a certain sweetness, which has the effect of light in a dark place. The key of the song is G major, and the voice written for contralto.

FINE ARTS.

NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, OLD BOND-STREET.

THE gallery of this institution, the first spring exhibition of which was noticed only a short time ago, has now been devoted to a summer exhibition of works by the old masters, during the time that it would otherwise remain unoccupied before the winter collection of water-colour drawings. It is not easy to praise too highly the determination to open it for such a purpose, and the judgment and spirit which have been displayed in obtaining many choice and admirable examples of the early schools of painting to form a gallery of 140 pictures, many of which are of historical, and most of which are of high artistic, merit.

Beginning with an "Aurora and Cephalus" of Domenichino, and thence to monkish portraiture by Cimabue, of the date of 1240-1302, we come to a very fine picture of the "Assumption of the Virgin," by Murillo, and a remarkably interesting "Last Judgment," of the Byzantine school, displaying singular freshness of detail and minute expression. There is a Holbein portrait, rather poor in execution, and a doubtful Velasquez, representing the Descent from the Cross. One of the most exquisite pictures in the gallery is the Titian mentioned in Mr. Jameson's "Hand-book to the Public Galleries of Art" in 1842, and, except that the "slightly draped" female figure is supposed to be a portrait of the great painter's daughter, and there is introduced a likeness of Ferdinand II. sitting at an organ, it is not unlikely to remind the visitor of the "Venus" in the Dulwich Gallery. A Diana, by Jacopo da Sontermo; a fine picture of "Susannah and the Elders," by Guido Reni; and a lovely Madonna, of Sassoferrato, attract attention; while the battle-pieces of Salvator Rosa are as admirably representative of the life and vigour of the artist as the fine landscape with a seaport, goats and goatherds, is illustrative of his intense sympathy with nature.

Terburg's portrait of Anne Maria Schurman is unlike most of his undoubted productions in being a half-length and in point of size, but its marvellous finish and permanent brightness and decision of colour render it so great a work that we do not call its ascription in question. Two Views of Venice, by Mariesschi Michile; a vigorous "Dance of Villagers," by Rubens; a "Land Storm," by Gaspar Poussin, and a wonderful representation of the "Dead Christ," by Ludovico Caracci, are among the gems of the exhibition. The "Witch of Endor with King Saul," by Rembrandt, is a great addition to the gallery, though it suffers a little by not being conveniently hung. Two pictures are especially noticeable—a grand landscape by Adrian Ostade, and a genuine Jan Steen, representing an humble domestic festival, with portraits of the family of the painter, including himself.

The "Decapitation of St. John," a rare example of a rare master (Francesco Paganini) who but for his early death might have exceeded in exquisite delicacy of touch his teacher, Michael Angelo, is a glorious work; and there is also a strongly emotional picture by Alessandro Turchi, representing the bringing of the head of Cicero to Fulvia, the repudiated wife of Marc Antony, who plunged her golden bodkin through the tongue which quivered—a sight that caused her to swoon away. A portrait of Romney, and one of Sir Joshua Reynolds, the latter painted by himself, and marvellous in its suggestion of that stolidity of expression that comes of deafness, are very fine; while a farmyard by Hermann Zach Leven, three pictures by Crome, and a cottage farm by Morland, all invite our regard. Two pictures by Vandervelde—a landscape with figures and cattle, and a sea piece with ship on fire—are very fine examples of that master. There is also a Hobbema, which is to be specially noticed. A portrait of Dr. Dodd, by Gainsborough, is sure to attract attention, not only from the interest felt in the man who sat for, and the artist who drew, the picture, but because of its lifelike character. We cannot conclude this brief notice of a fine collection without reference to the large and rare painting of the "Last Supper," by Bonifacio, a work in fine preservation, and remarkable for its display of the great faculty in colouring possessed by the artist.

THE OLD BOND-STREET GALLERY.

The summer exhibition of pictures in this gallery contains a large number of small pictures, many of which are in themselves attractive, but scarcely admit of any detailed notice. We are far from leading to the influence that the collection is not eminently pleasing to the visitor who can find enjoyment in the judicious discrimination of such gems of execution as may be found here and there among the numerous pictures that fill the walls of the rooms devoted to the water-colour drawings; but we cannot, in our present limited space, specify them in any distinguishing manner. In the first two rooms the oil paintings are also characterised less by the presence of any large or even striking works than by a number of pleasing subjects. Some of the most immediately attractive are Mr. Corbould's "Highland Cattle and Sheep" (No. 2); Mr. G. Chester's "Amberley Wildbrooks," which reminds one of Birket Foster; Mr. J. Docharty's "Bannock Moor," an exquisitely dainty piece of colouring, by Mr. E. C. Barnes, called "The Morning Walk"—perhaps the most charming little picture in the whole gallery; and "A London Study," by Mr. F. Barnard, who, already well known in the pages of our illustrated literature for his admirable studies of life in the streets, seems to have determined to show that he can paint as well as draw upon wood. "The Shepherd's Watch," by Mr. R. Ansell, R.A., is a very capital example of the artist's facile handling of sheep and country-side. In "Coming from Market" (51) Mr. Fyfe gives us a pretty picture, sure to attract ordinary visitors who know enough not to be art-critics; while Mr. T. Wade's "Rebellion and Treason" (56) is another admirably humorous scene of domestic life. With Mr. G. Smith's two pretty little pictures of "The Picture-Book" and "The Toy-Mender," Mr. W. Weekes's comical story of "Connubial Billings," and Mr. Bayes's "Wounded Messenger," we must conclude our notice of the seasonable exhibition at this gallery.

THE FRENCH GALLERY, PALL-MALL.

is now devoted to the striking works of Mariano Fortuny, of which we have only space to say that the great cathedral picture, representing a "Wedding in the Cathedral of Madrid," "The Snake Charmer," and the rest of that very suggestive and finely-executed group of paintings, can lose nothing by the rival attractions presented at the other exhibitions of the season.

MR. PEASE, M.P., ON MODERN WARS.—In a recent speech by the M.P. for South Durham, he remarked that in a very instructive volume lately published in France, a careful estimate (compiled with authentic documents) was made of the cost in lives of recent European wars. The Crimean war was stated to have cost 781,000 lives; the war in Italy, in 1857, 45,000; in Schleswig-Holstein, 3500; the American war, 800,000; the Prussian war, 45,000; Mexico and China, 65,000—making a total, between 1853 and 1866, of 1,750,000 lives; and those were men in the prime of life, men who ought to have been useful and productive citizens. And, besides all these, there were the maimed, the halt, and the blind who were scattered over all the nations of Europe. Such were the effects of thirteen years' war in the nineteenth century. Mr. Leroy-Beaulieu, in his "Recherches sur les Guerres Contemporaines" (the work alluded to by Mr. Pease), supplies some very curious statistics about the cost of war. It is really surprising to see how much money is spent for every man killed on the field or sent away to die of his wounds or of some sickness of the camp. The thing was done with comparative cheapness in the Crimean war, where a vast number of men were got together at very close quarters. Between the Russians and the Allies there were more than three quarters of a million men killed, each of them at the price of £438. On the other hand, the maximum of cost was reached in the American civil war. Each one of the 281,000 deaths (though this is a small estimate, we should imagine) was purchased by an expenditure of £345. The belligerents in South America did the horrible business more cheaply, not spending more than £900 per man. The horrible wars are generally costly. The Danish war extinguished 3500 lives, at an average cost of about £2000. The campaign which ended at Sadoua must be reckoned, considering its brief duration, to have been expensive. Every life cost nearly £1500. It is a strange policy which makes civilised societies expend what would be a comfortable maintenance to three or four men on the destruction of one.

POLICE.

WHOLESALE BABY-FARMING IN LAMBETH.—On Monday afternoon, at Lambeth Police Court, Margaret Waters, thirty-five, having also the aliases of Willis, Hurley, Walters, Ellis, Oliver, Blackburn, Fort, J. W., and M. T., and described as a nurse, was again placed in the dock, before Mr. Elliott, charged with neglecting to provide proper food and nourishment for the illegitimate child of Jeannette Tassy Cowan, whereby its life was in danger. She was further charged, with Mary Ellis, twenty-nine, her sister, with having in their possession four other infants, names unknown, and not providing proper food and nourishment for them, whereby their lives were endangered. Within the last few weeks several bodies of infants were found in the south of London. They were in baskets, or wrapped in articles of clothing, or in paper coverings. No clue could be obtained to those who were responsible for them, except that, at one recent inquest, the name of "Mrs. Waters" was found to be written on the piece of paper in which a child was wrapped. In Pagan times infants whom it was desired to get rid of were "exposed" and left to perish, and it seemed that this practice prevailed in London as well as in some heathen countries at this day. But for some time all further inquiries were baffled. The next scene in this social mystery is opened by an advertisement which we must quote in full:—"Adoption.—A good home, with a mother's love and care, is offered to any respectable person wishing her child to be entirely adopted. Premium, £5, which sum includes everything. Apply, by letter only, to Mrs. Oliver, Post Office, Grove-place, Brixton." To the disgrace of journalism, this advertisement was allowed to appear in one weekly paper, if not in more, the name of the advertiser being constantly varied. The advertisement we have quoted was answered by a sergeant of police, and, in reply, he received a letter, printed below, in which "Mrs. Oliver" displays her command of the language of parental affection. Since the remand, last week, the police have still further obtained such evidence as will, it is fully believed, place the prisoners, or one, at all events, upon her trial for a much more serious offence—the murder of several infants whose bodies have within the past few months been picked up not a very great distance from the house where Waters has resided. The house, it should be known, is situated nearly at the bottom of a somewhat secluded spot, called Frederick-terrace, Gordon-grove, leading out of Loughborough-road, Brixton. Within a few yards of the house is a partly completed thoroughfare called Foreign-road; and by passing down this, or under the viaduct of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, access is obtained to what remains of Myatt's fields, by the side of which runs a path to the Camberwell New-road railway station. It was about here that several dead infants have at different times been found. The house has been thoroughly searched, and several letters found which relate to the farming of infants. Amongst the bottles found were several labelled "Paregoric Elixir—Poison," and some packets of poison. The back and front gardens have been dug to some depth, but nothing has been traced there, although some private information was forwarded that a few feet below the surface something would be disclosed. Observation has been kept upon the post-office at Brixton, and the following letters, showing the system adopted, came into the officer's possession:—

Madam,—I shall be at the Loughborough-road station on the London, Chatham, and Dover line, on Saturday June 11, 1870, at four o'clock in the afternoon. Please wait in the first-class waiting-room, and wear a white kerchief round your neck in a conspicuous manner. I shall wear a blue-striped shirt and frock-coat, and I shall arrive from Ludgate-hill. Yours obediently, H. W. H. Post Office, Upper Holloway.

34, Hunter-street, Brunswick-square, June 13, 1870.—Madam e,—A friend of mine wishes to know whether you have already adopted a child. If not, and you will write me, I will see you on the subject. I am, yours faithfully, John Wright.

June 10.—Madam,—I am sorry to have kept you so long without a reply. I did not receive your note until last evening. I should feel very pleased for you to take my child. I would give £5 with her. She is in the country at present—Egham, in Surrey. You could have her when you pleased. Yours most respectfully, M. Winter. Please address Mrs. Winter, 3, Ebury-street, Piccadilly, S.W.

Thursday afternoon.—Sir,—In reply to yours I shall be happy to meet you at the Waterloo railway station on Friday afternoon at six o'clock in the first-class ladies' waiting-room. Should this not suit you will you favour me with a line? Yours truly, A. J. P.S. Please to have my letter in your hand.

May 16.—Madam.—In reply to your letter, I beg to say, we should be very pleased to adopt your baby. We have children very much, and would do all in our power to secure the happiness of the little one. I should like very much to see you; so if you will write, saying where and when I can do so, I shall feel obliged. Hoping soon to hear from you, I remain, yours sincerely, M. HURLEY.

This letter was addressed to "M. L. G., Post-office, Wordley-hill, Stoke Newington-road," and found there by the officers. The letter by which the prisoners were traced was written by Sergeant Relf, and, in reply, the following was received:—

Wednesday, June 8.—Sir,—In reply to your letter, I beg to say that it would give me great pleasure to adopt as my own your little boy, if he is not too old. You omitted to state the child's age; and I wish for one as young as possible, that it may know none but ourselves as its parents. The child would be well brought up and carefully educated; he would have a good trade, and be to us in all respects as our own. We have been married several years, but have no family. We are in a comfortable position, have a good business, and a home in every way calculated to make a child happy. We are both very fond of children; and should you intrust your little one to my care, you may rely upon his receiving the love and care of a mother. Any place you like to appoint for an interview will suit me. I can meet you at any time you please, and should be very glad to have the matter settled as soon as possible. Hoping to have an early reply, I am, Sir, respectfully yours, R. OLIVER.

Mr. Poland, instructed by the Treasury, appeared to prosecute; Captain Baines, the district superintendent, and Superintendent Gernon, of the P division, watched the case for the Commissioners of Police, and Mr. Moore on behalf of the Associate Institute for the Protection of Women and Children. Mr. Mayo defended.

Ellen O'Connor said she was fourteen years old, and knew the two prisoners as living in Frederick-terrace, Gordon-grove. She was servant there, going there first three months ago. She went generally about twelve o'clock in the day, leaving at ten o'clock at night. This was for the first

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—SHERIDAN MURPHY, M.D., &c., Professor at the Liverpool College of Chemistry."

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fortnight, after which she lived entirely in the house up to the time prisoners were taken into custody. She was engaged by Waters, or, as she knew her, "Mrs. Blackburn." She knew the other prisoner in the name of Ellis. When she first went, there were seven infants. That number included Mrs. Ellis's baby. She only knew three of the children, by the names of Teddy, Joe, and Willie. The number increased shortly afterwards to eleven. The prisoner Waters used to go out and bring the children there. While she (witness) was there four children were taken away. Two were taken by both prisoners on one night some five or six weeks ago. This was about ten o'clock at night. The infants were boy and girl, both in long clothes. Those two had been there about one month before being taken away. The prisoner Waters said she should be late for the train unless she made haste. She also said she was taking them away because they were ill. She always made that remark when she took them away. They brought the babies back half an hour after midnight, Waters remarking that they were too late to meet the train. On the following night prisoner took the same two babies. On their return, about half-past eleven o'clock, they were without the infants, and said they had taken them home. The girl was not very ill. When the prisoners came home they brought back a hood, cape, and cloak. Mrs. Waters also afterwards took a little girl away, and returned without it. About three weeks ago a fourth child was taken away by Waters. She (witness) had not seen either of the infants since. Witness was told frequently to go to the post-office in Zoor-place, Brixton, and get letters addressed there to "Mrs. Oliver." She obtained letters in that name, sometimes as many as six at a time. After Waters read them she generally burnt them. She read them to Ellis. She used to go to Mr. Keys, chemist, in Loughborough-road, for laudanum, Mrs. Waters telling her to say, if any questions were asked, that it was for the toothache. She gave it to Mrs. Ellis. She afterwards got some more, which she was told to say was for rubbing the infant Cowan's chest. She afterwards went to another chemist for it, but he refused to serve it. She remembered Mrs. Ellis coming home the Friday before they were taken into custody the worse for drink. Waters asked who had made her so, and if she had been to the Camberwell railway station. Just at that moment a man was looking in at the window, and Waters remarked, "You nasty cat, you have ruined me." Witness assisted Waters in putting Ellis to bed. Waters said she would let her brothers know for Ellis "doing her out of £8." Waters had also frequently sent her to the buildings close by for lime, which she said was to keep sickness away from the children. After putting a piece into a jug of water and allowing it to stand for one hour, a dessert-spoon full was, by the direction of Waters, put into each infant's feeding-bottle. The piece of lime used was about half as big as her hand. Mrs. Ellis used to give her own child the breast, and very often Cowan's child. The others were fed by the bottle and a spoon. No child died while she (witness) was there. Dr. Harris, of Denmark-hill, used to come there to see Mrs. Ellis's baby. Mrs. Ellis had that child before she went into that service. Testimony was then adduced to show that the bodies of dead infants had been found in the neighbourhood, and that one of these was wrapped in a parcel on which was written "Mrs. Waters." On the application of Mr. Poland, after some further evidence on the point of identity, the prisoners were remanded.

when the medical officer visited her premises "must be got ready," and that it would be ruinous were she to refuse such peremptory orders as were sent in at this time of the season. Moreover, she could not obtain additional assistance. The magistrate fined her 20s. and costs.

IMPORTANT TOLL CASE.

An important point was decided in a case—"Stanley, appellant, v. Mortlock, respondent"—tried in the Court of Common Pleas on Wednesday.

This case was stated from the Caxton Petty Sessions in Cambridge, raising the question as to the right to demand toll from the appellant for pulling up his waggone within 150 yards of the tollbar on the Longstone turnpike-road, where he was about 100 yards from the Cambridge and Bedford Railway station, leaving his waggone on the road and passing through the gate, walking, carrying such luggage as he had to the station. The magistrates at the Petty Sessions held the appellant to be liable to pay toll, and under the 41st section of the 3rd George IV., cap. 126, fined the appellant 5s. for leaving his carriage and horses on the road and evading the toll.

Mr. Graham, for the appellant, contended that the carriage was never left on the road within the meaning of the section. The coachman merely turned round and left the appellant, who walked on to the station. The appellant had had a dispute about compounding for his tolls with the respondent, who was the turnpike-keeper, and insisted on his right to act as he had done. If this rendered the appellant liable to a penalty he would be equally liable to a penalty if he chose to stop his carriage two miles from the tollbar. He was only liable to the toll when he passed through the gate.

Mr. Naylor, for the respondent, contended that the appellant had done "an act in order or with intent to evade the payment of toll" within the meaning of the forty-first section. The appellant had used the turnpike-road for more than one hundred yards, had rendered himself liable to the payment of toll, and had done an act to evade it. The liability to toll was incurred even if he did not pass through the gate.

Mr. Justice Keating recollected an instance to the contrary; in the town of Cheltenham, at a certain period of the day, there was a public promenade of carriages between two tollbars, the coachmen taking care not to drive within a certain distance of the tollbars.

Mr. Justice Willes thought the conviction ought to be quashed. The offence stated in the case was that the appellant left on the road a waggone and two horses, by reason of which the toll was evaded. The fact was, he chose to leave his carriage in the sense of quitting it, and did not return to it, but directed his coachman to drive home. It would be an abuse of language to say that this was leaving a carriage waiting on the road in order to evade the toll, because he afterwards passed through the toll-gate on foot.

The other learned Judges were of the same opinion. It was not necessary to determine the other questions raised. Conviction quashed.

THE ACTION AGAINST EX-GOVERNOR EYRE. Judgment was given on Thursday, in the Exchequer Chamber, in the case of "Phillips v. Eyre." This was an action for an assault, &c., against the defendant, the ex-Governor of Jamaica, alleged to have been committed in that island during the rebellion. The defendant pleaded that, by an Act of Indemnity passed by the Legislature of the colony, and assented to by the Crown, he was indemnified. The Act stated that those who had acted in good faith and loyal reserve in crushing the rebellion should be indemnified and kept harmless for their acts of

loyalty; and that all suits, indictments, informations, attachments, prosecutions, and proceedings, present or future, instituted against such parties or officers, &c., for or by reason of any matter or thing commanded, ordered, directed, or done by them, or either of them, since the proclamation of martial law, should be discharged and made void, and no such persons indemnified. The Act specially mentioned the Governor and his officers. The plea stated that the Jamaica Legislature had power to pass such an Act, and that the same was duly ratified by her Majesty and became the law of Jamaica. The Court of Queen's Bench held it was a good defence to the action, and also that the validity of the Act was not affected by the fact that the Governor, who joined in passing it, was thereby enabled to indemnify himself from the consequences of acts committed by him. The plaintiff appealed against the decision; and, after hearing the arguments, the Court took time to consider its judgment. The Court, in giving judgment, unanimously affirmed the decision of the Court below, and pronounced for the defendant.

MUTINY BY CONVICTS.—The steamer Hamburg arrived at Hull, on Thursday morning, with sixteen military convicts from London, under the escort of Lieutenant Adams, of her Majesty's 45th Foot, and ten privates, the whole being on their way to Wakefield. The convicts during the voyage had been very mutinous, and they were consequently placed in the hold of the vessel. In this hold were several cases of wine, and the convicts opened one of them and drank the contents, then finished up the boat by smashing the bottles. Heated by the wine, they commenced a general fight. Great difficulty was experienced in quelling the disturbance. They succeeded, however, in doing considerable damage to the cargo, and would probably have continued their doings had they not been threatened with a bayonet charge. Even then quiet was not fully restored until the principal leader had been brought upon deck and bound with ropes. The passengers were very much frightened, and were glad to reach Hull.

MURDER IN TIPPERARY.—A farmer named Healey, living near Nenagh, while returning to his house, was met by a party of men, one of whom struck him a violent blow on the side of the head with a stone, killing him. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against one of the party.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—C. THORP, Croydon, paper-hanging manufacturer.

BANKRUPTCY.—H. BUTLER, Regent-street, clerk—R. A. E. and V. DUNN, Elizabeth-street, Edgware-square, Berlin-wa-dealer—J. J. GIBSON, Islington, Berlin-wa-dealer—W. T. GREGORY, Rupert-street, licensed victualler—E. HALE, jun., Islington, china and wood broker—A. KIRKALLIE, Mark-lane, cigar-dealer—F. LEWIS, Old Ford, timber merchant—W. MASTERS, Aldershot, tobacco-dealer—L. M. STOFFEL, Nicholas-lane, C.F., telegraphic engineer—W. DOWELL, Birmingham, rule manufacturer—J. H. ARBY, Bradford, wire-card maker—E. J. MASON, Ashton-under-Lyme—W. JOHNSON, Louth—E. J. KAVANAGH, Birmingham, pearlworker—T. MANGNALL, jun., Lancashire, coal-miner—J. PHILLIPS, Kidderminster, miller—S. PROYER, Bramley, cloth manufacturer—A. and T. H. SCHURER, sen., Finsbury, Wells—T. P. WETMORE, Bristol, wine merchant—E. S. WINDER, Bradford, hop and twine manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. BROWN, Stirling, inn, keeper—J. ALLAN, Kirkintilloch, farmer—J. M. PHERSON, Pteroy, farmer—D. HOLLAND, Irvine, innkeeper.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—J. FORSTER, Oxford-street, licensed victualler—M. HOFFMAN, Manchester, merchant—F. P. SAUNDERS, Edgware-road, builder—J. WOOD-FORD, Swindon, farmer.

BANKRUPTCY.—S. G. FINNEY, Eldon-street, J. GAMITON, Bermondsey, leather cutter—J. J. BESANT, Dorchester brewer—T. BLACKHAM, Tottenham—W. T. BROWN, Runcorn, innkeeper—T. FAIRHEAD, Colchester, timber merchant—J. INGRAM, Manchester, ale and porter merchant—B. KIRKPATRICK, Oswestry, draper—W. LANGSTON, Hastings—G. MALTHY, Nottingham, wine and spirit merchant—H. SMITH, Brighton, baker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. R. PEACOCK, Greenock, wine and spirit merchant—R. DOUGLAS, Glasgow, boot and shoe manufacturer—J. BAIN, Pultneytown, boot and shoe maker—J. and R. A. M. MILAN, Ayr, cloth carriers—J. FELL, Heath Bank, cattle dealer—J. WILSON and J. CLUNIE, Edinburgh, porter and ale merchants.

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